

# Maclean's

Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

October 23, 2000 [www.macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca) \$4.50

**MIDDLE EAST**  
On a Powder Keg

**TELEVISION**  
Canada's Story

**The Maclean's  
Health Report**

# Fit For Life

**Why the healthiest  
Canadians are in  
Vancouver and Toronto**

**The immigrant  
factor**

**Simon Whitfield,  
Olympic triathlon  
gold medallist,  
sets the pace**



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# Editor

## In defence of the health system

A recent **family brush** with a medical emergency was a reminder of how many of us take good health for granted—and of just how accomplished the practitioners in the embedded healthcare system are. From the paramedics who worked with calm efficiency, to the able and thoughtful emergency-room staff, to the skilled doctors and staff on the medical floor, there was a seamless web of professionalism, concern and effective action. Above all, it was the nurses who carried the day—and the night. They are the secret force of the hospital system today, the glue that holds it all together with their dedication and knowledge. There are not enough gold medals for these true Canadian heroes.

Perhaps we were lucky. The popular perception is that our health care has deteriorated. A 1998 survey by the Commonwealth Fund found Canadians massively disappointed with the health-care system. A recent 20 per cent said the system needed only minor changes, compared with 56 per cent a decade earlier.

Reversingly, when Canadians are asked how they are actually treated, they are much more positive. In a 1996-

1997 survey, 85 per cent of Albertans said the overall quality of their care was good or excellent, and a 1999 Ontario study reported that 88 per cent of hospital patients felt the same way (for details, see *news 6/16*, Health Care in Canada 2000).

What about the massive shadow of beds across Canada? According to the annual report of the Ottawa-based Canadian Institute for Health Information, the impact has not been negative. In 1995, Saskatchewan closed 52 hospitals in rural areas. The government of Roy Romanow faced massive pressure. But a study six years later by provincial authorities found that the health of countryside communities that lost facilities actually improved. The small-out gains were in places that kept their local hospitals. The best of all? The communities that had never had a hospital in a comparison survey fully 90 per cent of respondents said their health had not been harmed by funding cuts.

The experts didn't have an answer to the obvious question: why did health improve in places where there were no hospitals? It may prove the old adage, repeated by a man during a recent visit

to, that hospitals are breeding grounds for illnesses. But it also may have something to do with leadership in the communities and alternatives to hospital services, such as stand-alone health clinics and home-care programs.

Being in the right place at the right time makes a difference, as this would cover many make clear. The second annual ranking of the health of Canadians, based on Statistics Canada's sweeping surveys, shows that the healthcare communities are clustered around Toronto and Vancouver (page 21).

It is not a matter of geography. Some key factors behind better health are income, education and, interestingly, the presence of recent immigrants. Among their many benefits to Canada, newcomers generally have the effect of raising the level of health in a community. In health care, conventional wisdom often gets turned on its ear.

*Robert Lewis*

[robertlewis@torstar.com](mailto:robertlewis@torstar.com) to comment on From the Editor

## Newsroom Notes

### The natural

He seemed the perfect symbol to illustrate a cover report on the healthiest Canadians (page 20). Simon Whitfield burst onto the national scene with his dramatic quadruple victory at the Sydney Olympic Games, powerfully radiating good health and superb fitness. Asked last week to meet with a photographer for *Maclean's*, Whitfield was delighted, especially when he heard that the shoot would be at a school. "Working with kids has always been



Whitfield in Aurora, Ont., is there to help

a big priority of mine," said Whitfield, who at times looks away from his training in Victoria to supervise the lunch hour at a local elementary school.

The second annual *Maclean's* survey of the health of Canadians results from a partnership with Statistics Canada's health division. Senior analysts Susan Gilmore and Brenda Wansell played the principal roles in organizing the data for the magazine. At the *Maclean's* end, Tanya Marwan spearheaded the research task. The cover package, designed by Acting Art Director Gisèle Sabourin, was overseen by Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall.



# The Mail



Justin Trudeau at the funeral, late

## 'The Trudeau legend'

All who had the good fortune to hear or see Justin Trudeau's eulogy for his father, former prime minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, will remember that moment as a turning point in Canadian history (After the test," *Cover*, Oct. 16). His Canada now soaked in own royal family—the Canadian version of the Kennedys? There is much to be said in favour of it. Justin and Sophia are descendants of French- and English-speaking families, and obviously Justin has his father's flair for the rhetorical. Some said he reminded them of his father. It is more than that—he is his father. The Trudeau legend has opened another chapter. Many Canadians will watch the career of this wonderful young man with immense interest.

Jim Spragell, Langdon, B.C.

### Letters to the Editor

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## 'Defining moment'

As my wife, Elise, and I watched the funeral homage to a man who undoubtedly was the most outstanding leader Canada has yet had, we indeed felt that we were witnessing the unfolding of the future. But it was Justin Trudeau's eulogy that will be forever recognized as the defining moment in our service of celebration for his departed father (The Wall goes up," *Cover*, Oct. 16). I am so far removed from being a member of the Liberal party as one could possibly be; however, I must admit that I've appreciated some of Trudeau's initiatives, including the Campaign of Young Canadians. But I do hope that Justin (and his brother, Sophia, and his sister, Sarah) will never be hijacked into becoming part of Canada's political circus. I wish that the Trudeau sons and daughter find their own roads to greatness so that we will remember them for themselves.

Floyd Wilkinson, Winnipeg

Having the highest peak in Canada named after Pierre Trudeau, well, it will be like having a perpetual Trudeau finger forever in our western faces to remind us as to just who got the last word. I am sure that this is exactly what he would not want. He believed in the history of this country and would not want it altered on his behalf.

Robert Buchanan, Ladysmith, B.C.

Thank you for your tribute to Pierre Trudeau ("Pierre Elliott Trudeau, 1919-2000," *Cover*, Oct. 9), who made us a nation of poets by challenging us to articulate our aspirations as individuals and the great collective that is Canada. This year, we have said farewell to Al Purdy, poet of the land, and Pierre Trudeau, for whom richland was poetry. Their journeys are ours. Perhaps the presence of Cuban President Fidel Castro at Trudeau's funeral is a symbol of our national maturity.

Ulfrik Fingers, Post President, The Langhe at Canadian Post, Victoria

There are so many ways I have benefited from and been influenced by Trudeau's vision, starting in elementary school, where I attended half-day

French-immersion classes. This was the foundation for my becoming bilingual. In fact, being bilingual has opened many exciting doors for me. Both professionally and academically, not to mention opening my mind. I was lucky enough to meet my hero more than once. At a Canada World Youth anniversary party (another wonderful program started under the Trudeau government), I watched him dance up a storm. That was only one year ago. I will never forget all that I have learned because of him and I will always work to realize the potential of the Canada he believed we could become.

Genevieve Cortes, Polkaville, Prentiss, Japan

Too many times I have had to read that Pierre Trudeau was a great prime minister. But he couldn't master up enough love for Canada to save during the Second World War. When Quebec becomes a sovereign nation, and British Columbia and Alberta (and if we are lucky, Saskatchewan as well) become their own entity, then, and only then, will the Liberal last-remaining media

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### SEBRING LXI



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here to admit just how great Trudeau really was. No single person did more to divide what was at one time the world's most beautiful country.

Michael Hagan, Regina

For a brief time, we were only Canadians—a rare nod to England's constitutional policies and not committed to a North American culture. Trudeau gave us that moment in time. It was too brief.

Peggy Sobush, North Bay, Ont.

Allan Fotheringham says, in reference to the passing of Pierre Trudeau: "They don't make giants anymore" ("The last of the giants," Oct. 9). "They" never did. Our country, in needs and our times give us Trudeaus. This conjunction of the individual, the times and the challenge has, in the past world, given us John F. Kennedy, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Golda Meir, Indira Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. We mourn the passing of a legend who dominated his era, and we wear the gift of the next one from the solid foundation of the Canadian democracy on which we all laid a few stones with Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Bob DeLong, Mississauga, Ont.

## Big winners

I agree that François Dominic Lussier's \$54,000 win on *Who Wins at 40* a Milestone, *Canada Edition* was impressive, but contrary to the statement in "National watch" (Entertainment News, Sept. 25), his win wasn't the largest amount ever won by a Canadian on a quiz show, or even on a quiz show in Canada (an error last Pamela Wallin made on the program as well). In 1978, I appeared on a program by Alex Trebek called the \$176,000 *Quarant*, which was, in fact, played in Canada, and I won the top prize. Much to my surprise, that accomplishment resulted in my being included in *The Guinness Book of World Records*, although the record has long

since been supplanted. And I'm not even the winner of the largest amount won by a Canadian. That honour belongs to Bob Blais, also of Vancouver, who won more than \$80,000 as a first-time champion on *Jopardy!*, then won an additional \$100,000 on the Tournament of Champions.

Barbara-Anne Edley, Vancouver

## To have or have not

I want to congratulate you on a great article, "Kids? Not as we, thanks" (Over to You, Oct. 3). At the age of 38, I made that decision, and now, at 63, I find that my decision was a very good one for me. I was ahead of my time. Even today, there are a few articles like that in it, refreshing and forward thinking. I hope Sara Jewell continues to enjoy her life with her partner and dog.

Elizabeth Murray, Victoria

I respect Sara Jewell's choice, because unless one is totally committed to the joy and sorrow, the ups and downs and ups and downs of parenthood, having a child wouldn't only be frustrating, it would be worse. Having a child because it is expected in the wrong decision can't ever make. To have a child and not love her passionately and unconditionally leaves an impossible hole in the heart of another human being that no amount of therapy can fix. My husband and I decided to enter the world of parenthood, and what I have discovered along the way is that, while I love walking our dog, there is nothing like the smell I walk with my kids.

Teresa Nussner, Niagara, B.C.

On behalf of all parents who interpret to contribute to the future of mankind in a positive way, I'd like to thank Sara Jewell and her husband for recognizing their shameless lack of responsibility and selfishness. The last thing this world needs is to reproduce such selfish and shortsighted heirs.

Mike and Bob Thompson, Courtenay, B.C.

## Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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any additional payments unless there is physical damage to the vehicle, or you have driven over the allowable number of kilometres. Every lease has a clause that says that if you return the vehicle it must be "in good working order with normal wear and tear." It is very important that consumers properly maintain their vehicle during the life of the lease. For these reasons, most vehicle manufacturers' leases are the closed-end type. In fact, about 90 per cent of all leases are closed-end.

In an open-end lease, you make a set number of lease payments during the term of your lease and can return the vehicle to the leasing company at the end of the lease term. However, an adjustment will then be made to reflect an additional payment that may be required to cover the difference between the actual value of the vehicle at the end of the lease and the residual value stated on your lease contract. However, if the actual value of the vehicle is more than the residual value stated on your lease, then you are entitled to the difference.

I personally do not like open-end leases because con-

sumers are essentially gambling on what the value of their vehicle will be at lease-end. Used car values are set by complex market forces that can change radically over the period of the lease. Consumers are better served by letting sophisticated finance companies deal with end-of-lease vehicle prices and should only consider a closed-end lease.

**There are a very wide variety of loan products available in the market including:**

1. Standard bank loan
2. Dealer-negotiated bank loan
3. Vehicle company loan
4. Baddeley loans
5. Subprime financing
6. Buy-Here-Pay-Here
7. Bank of Mom and Dad

I categorize loan products into four basic types. First are normal interest rate loans that can be negotiated with your bank at one of their branches or at a car dealer.

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Drivers wanted.



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Drivers wanted.



The captive finance companies of the vehicle manufacturers also offer standard loans. The normal interest on a vehicle loan is prime plus two per cent although this usually can be negotiated if you have a high credit rating. There is no longer any rule of thumb as to where you can negotiate the best interest rate. Banks will often give a car dealer a better rate than their branch rate in order to get the dealer's referral business, but this is not always the case. Shop around.

The second type are subordinated interest rate loans or what the industry calls "sub-vented" interest rate loans which are offered exclusively by the vehicle companies. They buy down the interest rate and pass on the savings to the consumer by way of a low-interest loan. These are very popular in the fall when vehicle companies are trying to move unpopular models or clear out last year's models. The advantage is the low-interest costs and I have a hard time coming up with a disadvantage other than consumers can end up buying a vehicle that is not right for their needs. My favourite low-or-no-interest loan is what I call "Bank of Mom and Dad." Parents often have fewer bills to pay than their children and they have money in the bank. It is becoming more common for their children to borrow from their parents at low or no interest. This is a good way to get financing and an excellent way for parents to help out their kids with a large purchase, especially since young people often have a hard time getting credit until they are established financially.

The third category is ultra-high interest rate loans for those consumers with poor credit ratings. They are called sub-prime loans, which is a tricky play on words. It does not mean the loan is below the prime interest rate in the market. It means the consumer is not a prime customer and it is very risky to the financial institution. Banks and vehicle companies generally do not offer sub-prime loans. Instead, they are left to a variety of independent lending companies. They are often called "Buy-Here-Pay-Here" which implies exactly what it says. A consumer pays for the vehicle where he or she buys it. The car dealer becomes your banker. Sub-prime loans carry sky-high interest rates (prime plus 10 to 15 per cent is normal) and are more common with used vehicles than new vehicles. The primary advantage is that they offer credit to a consumer who cannot get credit anywhere else. The obvious disadvantage is their high cost. Avoid these if at all possible.

The fourth category is "balloon loans." These are loans that are structured very similarly to a lease in that a consumer only pays down part of the principal rather than the full cost of the vehicle. The most popular program is the Royal Bank's "Buy Back" program, although some other banks have this product as well. With these financing prod-

ucts only the depreciated value of the vehicle is repaid and the bank will buy the vehicle back at a predetermined price at the end of the loan. Unlike a lease, the consumer owns the vehicle, not the bank. Most consumers choose to keep their vehicle and get another loan at the end of the "buy back" to finance the remaining portion of the cost of the vehicle. Their primary advantage is the lower monthly payment and the guaranteed buy-back option at the end of the loan. They are also easier to understand than a lease and, because they are a loan, by law they have to have full disclosure. Their biggest disadvantage is higher interest costs (just as with a lease) and the fact that all the taxes have to be paid for up front.

There is no easy rule of thumb as to whether to buy or lease, and if you buy, which type of loan to get. Before you choose a finance product, however, I think there are a few basic questions you need to answer.

1. Can I afford to pay cash or carry the monthly payments of a loan?  
If no, then leasing may be an option. But remember, paying cash or short-term borrowing is always cheaper than a lease.
2. Do I typically keep my vehicle for more than five years?  
If yes, then leasing is likely not a good idea unless you just cannot afford the monthly loan payment.
3. Do I drive a lot?  
Most consumers in Canada drive 20,000 to 25,000 km per year. If you drive a lot more than this, then leasing can get quite expensive.
4. Will the vehicle dealer provide me with a "full-disclosure lease"?  
If no, then go somewhere else. The industry has created tough but fair disclosure guidelines to protect consumers. Take advantage of them. All loans are full disclosure.
5. Have I shopped around and gathered all competitive information?  
Unprepared consumers are usually their own worst enemies.

Remember, there is nothing wrong with borrowing to buy a vehicle or with leasing. Leasing is just a different and more complex method of financing a vehicle. As with all major purchases, consumers should take their time and shop around, get as much information about their purchase as possible and understand the financial aspect of acquiring their vehicle. Also, contrary to popular opinion, the vast majority of vehicle dealers are reputable and they can usually help you with your decision.

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith

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♦ **Brian Tobin:** Pardon return to Ottawa as Jean Chrétien's assured heir. Then we can find out how those French lessons have been going.

♦ **Sir William Logan:** Thanks to PM's heavy-handed effort to reassure his mountain Mount Trudeau, suddenly everyone's an expert on his exploits.

## Every day is a new struggle

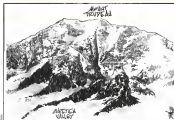
*Brian MacLennan, head coach of Canada's track-and-field team at the Sydney Olympics, has been a fixture on the track scene for more than two decades. Five years ago, MacLennan, then 47, was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, the degenerative neurological disorder that causes difficulty with balance and walking, slowness of movement, and tremors. He talked to Reporter Catherine Roberts about how the disease changed his life.*



MacLennan fights on

"I couldn't believe it when the doctor said I had Parkinson's. My fear was so overwhelming that tears began uncontrollably. When I told my wife, Vicki, she tried to console me. I can hear her saying, 'We will fight this.' That was May 18, 1995.

"I struggle every day. Putting on my coat, shooting a basketball, putting a cap on a horse, running or just plain walking is a struggle. I have lost co-ordination in my left hand and my leg is so rigid, I have to drag it. I am dead in my left ear. The drugs cause bloating and constipation. Mood changes overtake me in seconds for no apparent reason. I now teach Grade 8 phys ed every other day. Because my voice has lost volume and my speech is often slurred, students have a hard time hearing me. I resigned as head cross-country coach at the University of Waterloo in 1997. I now coach twice a week for two hours. When I'm asked to travel to give talks or seminars, my wife comes to help. I have problems with balance. I fall down the stairs at home, breaking several ribs and puncturing a lung. It was not only painful but embarrassing. But I try to work as long as possible."



## History 101

Great Canadians:  
just book 'em

*"Worried that your kids—or peers—don't know enough about Canadians, past and present? In 'Yes! Even More Canadians' (McArthur & Co., \$19.95), three third book collections together, cartoonist Terry (Artline) Mander and Irish broadcaster and poet Gordon Swift journey well-known Canadians with an irreverent sense of poetry and caricature. Their subjects range from Sir John A. Macdonald to flying ace Billy Bishop to broadcaster Guy Lewis to Brian, some of the role in Celtic Dias.*

"My heart," declared Celtic Dias, "Will certainly go on and on, And on and on and on and on, Just like the endless song I sang. The night the dup's alarm bells rang And everyone began to panic."



*Ahead the starchy, doctored Titanic. My voice of course remained to float Upon the waves—until the boat."*

Now, some, bored by the goings-on of Reed and Celtic Dias, Might only hope, with many a sigh, This time, "Hello" might mean, "Goodbye!" Though others think that outcolds' coat And would prefer an "Au revoir!"

## Paul, we never get to see you

The hourly defunct mini-budget: Paul Martin is expected to deliver on Oct. 18 is likely the last step the government will take before an election call four days later. One question now in Liberal circles: what role will Martin play in the bid to win Jean Chrétien a third majority?

Recent reports have suggested that Martin loyalists are being driven out of the Libl decision team—and that Martin is reluctant to campaign much outside his own Montreal-area riding. But senior Liberals told *Maclean's* that the strategy team will include Mike Robinson, a key Martin adviser and friend, in preparing Chrétien for debate.

Robinson occupied the same role in the 1993 and 1997 elections—and, in fact, most of the team from those campaigns is being assembled. Not surprisingly, most major players are Chrétien loyalists. "We haven't been sitting by the phone expecting bigger jobs," laughed one Martinist. As for Martin, a supporter noted that in 1997 he was called upon only in the late stages, to counter falling poll numbers. The Martin faction says its guy will again be willing to do so if the going gets tough as voting day draws near.

John Geddes

## Overbites

*"I just fell in love with her. Of all the dorm matrons I've ever gone to, she's the only one I've had genuine feelings for."*



Bedford, unadorned

—Neil Arnold, a 34-year-old Guelph, Ont., baker, speaks at a fund-raiser for dormitories. **Terri-Juan Decland** whose attempt to appeal her conviction for operating a common bawdy house was later refused by the Supreme Court. Arnold appeared dressed in short black skirt and stiletto heels.

"Now I get to serve the ball. It's going to be fun."  
—Bedford announces plans to write a book about her career and legal battles.

"We are shocked and appalled by the outcome. We've always felt comfortable with the national [election] vote."

—Nedy Fry, secretary of state for the status of women, reacts to news that her home page had a slash link that inadvertently connected visitors to porn sites. The menu list included "Horny housewives" and "Spank me."

"We seem never to talk about the person who lost his life, who was kidnapped, and who died."

—Jean Laporte, 41, only son of Pierre Laporte, who was assassinated in the 1970 October Crisis, bemoans the manner in which more attention is paid in Quebec to those imprisoned under the War Measures Act than to his father.





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# PASSAGES

**Honoured:** Monnaie Ben Weider, 76, deemed a conspiracy theorist by many, was presented with the French Legion of Honour—France's highest tribute—for his longtime commitment to promoting the life of French leader Napoleon Bonaparte.

Weider has long argued that Napoleon's true cause of death was murder at the hands of one of his own countrymen rather than the conventional belief that he succumbed to stomach cancer. For his part, the French government reinstates the award, which was created by Napoleon in 1802, in for Weider's "passionate interest" in the



French leader, and not a sign that it agrees with his theory. Weider is well known for starring the Montreal-based International Federation of Body-builders.

**Died:** In 1960, Sirinawa Badanawike transformed himself from an unassuming housewife into the world's first female prime minister when she was appointed leader of Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, after her husband, Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, was assassinated. She ruled the country for 12 years between 1960 and 1977 and regained the post in 1994 before settling in Australia. She died of a heart attack in Colombo in 94.

**Awarded:** South Korean President Kim Dae-jung won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work on behalf of democracy and efforts to achieve détente with

North Korea. In other words, technological vasomycin and plastics experts won the highly coveted Nobel Prize in physics and chemistry. Half of the physics prize was awarded to American computer chip creator Jack Kilby, 76, the other half was split between Zhores Alferov of Russia and Herbert Kroemer of Germany for their work on creating the semiconductor. The chemistry prize went to U.S. scientist Alan Heeger and Alan MacDermid along with Hideo Shirakawa from Japan for their groundbreaking work in the 1970s, in making plastic a vital material for conducting electricity. The result of their work is widely used in cellphone displays and radio-television.

**Died:** Pierre Samson, 61, was a virtual unknown in the Public Service Alliance of Canada six months before he won the union's presidency in 1982 by a mere two votes. Known as a maverick, Samson opposed Charvat's plan to impose wage restraints on the union's 180,000 members and stood up to then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau. Samson headed up PSAC until 1985. He died in his Orleans, Ont., home.

**Awarded:** Actor Donald Sutherland, 66, was one of six Canadians to receive a Governor General's Performing Arts Award in recognition of their contribution to the country's culture. Sutherland, whose breakthrough came in the 1970 movie *M\*A\*S\*H*, has gone on to roles in more than 100 films and television shows. Country singer Stanney's Ryan Connors, soprano Teresa Stratas, Shaw Festival artistic director Christopher Newton, journalist Janette Rensland and Farouk Noubi, choreographer of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, were the other recipients.

**Died:** During the 1970s, Tony M? Thomas Wells was a key cog in the Big Blue Machine's control of the Ontario legislature. A fixture at Queen's Park for more than two decades, Wells won his elections in his Scarborough North riding but earned his greatest renown in the early 1970s in education minister. Six thousand teachers and students marched to Queen's Park in 1973, demanding his resignation. He died of cancer at Toronto North York General Hospital in the age of 70.



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Over To You



Jayson Tarzwell

## To Liam, my late son

As fall begins, I prepare for another year. Even though the year formally starts in January, I look to October as a time of renewal. Unfortunately, this autumn is dominated by the loss of our one-year-old son, Liam. The last act of his passing was the laying of his grave marker last week. I chose this month to do so because I love the colour the fall sun radiates as it glows off orange, yellow and red leaves. I further love October for the warm days and cool nights, and the season that let me safely birds like me watch them.

For Liam, this should have been his second in a long line of autumns, leading to kindergarten in three years, university in 18, work, marriage, children—who knows where fall would have seen him in coming years? Earlier in life, I never thought that at 29, I would own my own garage and have placed a child in it. Liam's death wasn't wholly unexpected, but we didn't think it would come so soon. He had a difficult time almost from birth in August, 1999: he had trouble feeding, settling down and cried almost constantly. By October, he had seizures of increasing severity, leading to his first hospital admission in November. At the age of four months, he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder known to affect brain cells.

By then, family life had deteriorated to the point where most meals were instant, we slept in brief stretches and hired a cleaner to make more time for ourselves. All the while, we had to entertain our healthy three-year-old, Margaret. Things didn't get easier with Liam's hospitalization the doctor looking after him misdiagnosed his condition as "shaken-baby syndrome." This led to an investigation police and Children's Aid investigation, and Margaret was taken from us. I was so heartach that I couldn't tell my parents for two days. (The final diagnosis of his condition was determined over

the next two weeks and confirmed post-mortem.)

Although the police investigation closed us and we were given our daughter back, the news from doctors provided little consolation. Liam did not have any motor or intellectual function because his brain was too badly damaged. There is no treatment for his condition, although his seizures could be controlled with medication. With that, we were sent home for what would be Liam's only Christmas.

Through winter and spring, things were quiet and we almost felt that there had been a mistake. Although, as predicted, Liam did not develop mentally, he *did* make during this period, and often appeared content. He giggled on several occasions and cooed, much to our delight. But this was not to last, and from late March to his death in August, Liam was plagued with viral throat infections and pneumonia.

He spent his last week on a ventilator. We had decided that if Liam did not begin breathing on his own within seven days, we would remove the machines and let nature take its course. He drew breath for 675 hours before dying at 5:15 p.m., Aug. 4, 2000. We buried Liam five days later, on his birthday.

Throughout this, I developed a great respect for the people working in medicine. The hardships we met demonstrated compassion and professionalism above and beyond what I ever expected. Such people are a large part of what makes Canada the best place in the world to live. That's just flag-waving, but a simple truth—because without them, we would not have had Liam as long as we did.

Jayson Tarzwell lives in Toronto. Guest submissions may be sent to [contributions@canada.ca](mailto:contributions@canada.ca) or faxed to (416) 596-7730. We cannot respond to all queries.

# TRUDEAU

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

## Watching the landscape shift

**Smart, telegenic, well educated and well spoken,** Randall Peace is pretty much the ideal candidate for political office, as envisioned by General Casting. Now 40, he worked around Parliament Hill as director of communications for the Progressive Conservatives in the early '90s, when they held power. He's run his own public affairs consulting business and been a vice-president with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. His CV includes a pile of volunteer work, and as for education, there's an honours BA from the University of Toronto and a master's in public administration from Harvard. It's not hard to see why, when Randall ran for the federal Tory nomination in Toronto Centre-Rosedale riding earlier this year, he was unopposed.

He's also gay, and for anyone who cared to ask, he's been open about that for 17 years. How it affects his campaign—and similar dilemmas faced by other candidates from ethnic or special-interest groups—says a lot about the evolution that has taken place in Canadian politics, as well as what lies ahead. It's safe to say Peace wouldn't have dreamed of acknowledging his sexual preference two or three decades ago if he wanted to have a chance of being elected. These days, he's keen to talk about other things—like public policy, debt levels and social values—but some voters and the media won't leave the gay issue alone. "I thought I could run as a candidate who happens, among other things, to be gay," he said over coffee last week. "I learned that was possible."

With an election call date within a week or so, expect to hear a lot—especially from Liberals—about the "battle for social values." There will be one—but it is important to realize how much the country's landscape has already shifted. Every major party—with the likely exception, ironically, of the Libs—will run at least one avowedly gay candidate. The Libs, NDP Tories and—in their distinct way—Bloc Québécois all make efforts to reach out to minority groups.

But also worth noting that everyone's target on social issues, the Canadian Alliance, is running a gay candidate (in Montreal). While gay-rights advocates argue vehemently—as Peace does—that Stedwell Day and the Alliance pose an enormous danger to them, that reflects fear of Alliance attitudes, not any specific anti-gay items in the party's policies. Although the Alliance has some yahoos at the grassroots level, its increasing number of candidates from different ethnic groups reflects its growth. Consider the thousands of Sikhs who recently turned out in Alliance MP An Hing's Calgary-area riding to back four different Sikh candidates for the nomination: they clearly don't consider the party intolerant.

One of the most important issues for minority groups is to decide how much they want to keep to themselves, and how

much to participate in the mainstream. Gay, because they historically faced harassment, formed tightly integrated communities in downtown areas. The riding where Peace is running it, by some estimates, about one-third gay. Similarly, immigrants to Canada tend to live in major cities, close to one another. In such cases, the groups form large voting blocks, and the MLAs they send to Ottawa are expected to speak on behalf of their interests.

That is a necessary step in political development for minorities, but it has limitations. If someone runs for office solely as a representative of a specific group, they should not be surprised if others feel left out, and don't vote for them. And candidates from minority groups who do win, and get to Ottawa, face other problems. Think of a gay like Raymond Chan, the secretary of state for the Asia-Pacific region. Chan is a smart, friendly, decent man with an impressive record as a human-rights activist going back to his Hong Kong roots. That made him a good choice for the portfolio when the Libs were elected in 1993. But now, Chan's blessing—and curse—is that the PM has been boasting to Asian leaders about his Hong Kong-born minister that makes Chan unlikely to be bumped from his job, but equally unlikely to be promoted. On the other hand, smooth Punjabi-born Herb Dhaliwal, now fisheries minister, has been more successful in widening his base of support—partly by emphasizing his long business background.

**MPs, to be really effective, need to speak for more than one interest group.** And people in the media like to get away from portraying everyone as one-issue cardboard cutouts. The Ottawa press gallery is so fixated on Day's personal religious beliefs that it seldom questions him on complex stuff like foreign policy, trade issues or specific health-care concerns. They think they're giving him a hard ride—but in fact, the opposite is true. People—and MPs—can be different, but still deal in shared concerns. Peace has the right idea. If, as some calculate, his riding is one-third gay, he figures gay issues should take about one-third of his time and he can serve everyone the rest of the time.

In some ways, as Canada continues to become more diverse, the fight for Rosedale/Toronto Centre offers several lessons. Bill Graham, the Liberal incumbent, is a cerebral, old-school gentleman and a devout social liberal who also been a friend of the gay community. So even as Peace is viewed as a minority, the local race won't really be centered on gay rights, because the two main contenders are not far apart on that. Instead, voters have to consider the overall qualities of each man and their parties. In Rosedale/Toronto Centre, that will be an obstacle, but tough, decision.

# Fit for Life

A Maclean's survey identifies Vancouver, Toronto and their suburbs as Canada's healthiest centres

By Robert Marshall

**A**s Simon Whitfield gleefully kicks a soccer ball around with a group of schoolkids, it's hard to imagine anyone fitter or healthier anywhere on the globe, let alone in Canada. With his thrilling come-from-behind gold-medal finish in the first-ever Olympic triathlon in Sydney last month, Whitfield, 25, took his place in the international pantheon of great athletes. Now he is schmoosing with students at a school in the bedroom community of Aurora, north of Toronto. "I've been to as many schools as I could get to in the two weeks since I got home," says the busy athlete who grew up in Kingston.



One, but now lives and trains in Victoria. "I just think it's important for everyone to talk to kids about surrounding themselves with positive people, setting goals and figuring out how they're going to accomplish those goals."

Whitfield, who has dropped in on the Aurora Monksie School as a favour to a friend whose two children go there, constantly drives home his Olympic message. "It's not about winning gold medals," he says. "It's about being healthy and creating people and great experiences." Here is an athlete whose life suddenly catapulted into another dimension because he lost the best in the world, telling kids they have "a responsibility to be healthy and to be fit and to love sport"—not to say can win, as he has done, but simply for the good of their health.

Canadians in huge numbers have bought the same message: keep active, eat well, take care of themselves—for the good of their health. Great hospitals and brilliant doctors make a difference. So do miraculous prescriptions and shamanic lipsticks for MRI scans. But it is the way Canadians conduct their daily lives—and the socioeconomic environment they live in—that really determines how healthy they are. In a far-reaching survey, *Maclean's* second annual report on the state of health in communities across Canada has found two clusters of exceptionally good health in and around the cities of Toronto (page 26) and Vancouver (page 28). There, the analysis observes, great numbers of people are living well and looking after themselves.

Because of the differences in the importance of the indicators that it counts, the survey does not produce a strict ranking. Instead, a collating of those

Whitfield with students in Aurora: "Fit people, active people are going to be healthier people"



indicators in which various communities show the healthiest—and the least healthy—results provides a graphic overview of health successes and challenges across Canada (page 28). Of the country's 136 health regions, the survey includes 51 of the most populous, each with more than 100,000 residents—in all embracing fully 85 per cent of Canadians. It compares those regions on the basis of Statistics Canada data covering a spectrum of the 16 key health indicators that are collected on a consistent basis at the health region level across Canada.

The Vancouver and Toronto areas, interestingly, include the same regions that scored top marks in last June's annual *Maclean's* ranking of the delivery of health services to Canadians. But even more significantly, in the view of many experts, those regions' health successes correlate closely to their high levels of education, employment and income—strong indicators of a community's ability to look after its best interests. And in a phenomenon only recently gaining recognition in Canada and elsewhere, the best health results also go hand in hand with a high concentration of immigrants (page 22).

At Statistics Canada, analyst and senior Researcher Wilensky has looked closely at what is being called "the healthy immigrant effect." It results principally from two selection stages, he notes. "First, there's a self-selection process—who decides to migrate," says Wilensky. They have to want to leave and be able to leave. That basically excludes the people who are sick, disabled and in institutions. "Wilensky adds: "In other words, we're getting a select group in terms of health." At the Canadian end, most immigrants who are new refugees are chosen from among that select pool of applicants on the basis of superior education, language ability and job skills—characteristics that go hand in hand with healthy lifestyles.

But the healthy immigrant effect has a limited lifespan, Wilensky adds. "Health surveys," he says, "show that the longer immigrants are in the country, the more their health profiles look like the general population." That is partly because they need to pick up bad habits, including smoking and less-healthy diets. The same health effect, Wilensky notes, appears to apply to internal migration as healthy migrants of parts of the country thus offer little opportunity given to jobs and better futures.

The survey also illustrates the close association between poorer health and the release

lack of socioeconomic advantages in some inner cities and inner rural regions. "People who are unemployed, or living in chronic poverty, or socially isolated—are at risk," says Dr. John Millett, vice-president of the Canadian Institute for Health Information. A decade of research has established that many of those people are more susceptible to disease. "Thus," says Millett, "is a direct consequence of the illness they are experiencing and how they impact on their immune systems and their general ability to resist disease and keep themselves healthy."

This second annual report on the health status of Canadians fleshes out the findings of the inaugural survey. A year ago, Macdonald head Statistics Canada data on just 17 major communities. They included Toronto and Vancouver, and this report pinpoints the health advantages in those cities. This year, the addition of data from another 34 regions suggests that the affluent communities on the borders of Toronto and Vancouver are even healthier than their big-city neighbours. The numbers this year are also based on a fifteenfold increase, drawn from a three-year average of the data from 1995 to 1997 instead of a single year's report. "This," says senior analyst Jason Gillson, a principal member of the Statistics Canada team that produced the survey material, "helps smooth out the fluctuations that could appear in any individual year and makes the data more reliable."

The results show the sprawling rural regions—including Prince George, B.C., Thunder Bay, North Bay and Sudbury, Ont., and Chicoutimi, Que.—clustered at the lower end of



In Tai Chi exercise class in Vancouver, a select group in terms of health

## Among the Global Leaders

Life expectancy based on estimated mortality rates as of Jan. 1, 1999

1. Austria 82.5
2. San Marino 81.5
3. Australia 80.1
4. Japan 80.1
5. Switzerland 79.1
6. Sweden 79.1
7. Switzerland 79
8. Iceland 79
9. Singapore 78.8
10. France 78.6

Source: World Health Organization

the table. Dancers from medical help, lower education, less affluence, lower job opportunities—these and other factors make good health harder to come by. The survey also points to the special challenges that health authorities face in Quebec (page 32) and across the Atlantic region (page 34) in trying to bring levels of health up to national standards.

Across the Prairies, the regions around Winnipeg and Regina show middle-of-the-pack results. Saskatoon fares better with significantly above-average results in five of the 16 categories, including the important life expectancy that Alberta presents an intriguing paradox: the four regions from that wealthy, high-employment province show only middling results (page 36).

Back in Ontario, Simon Whitfield spends more time in appearance to another in Kingston and Toronto and, finally, he's off to the biennial World Championships in Harare to cheer on fellow Canadians. On his way to meet with the Azezo students, he takes a moment to consider his attitude towards physical activity. "The people, active people are going to be healthier people," he says. "You only get one crack in life, so you might as well make it a fit one." A philosophy to live by. ■

## The Healthy Immigrant Effect

Of the 10 regions that are home to the highest proportion of immigrants:

- all but two (Montreal and Hamilton) have life-expectancy rates higher than the national average
- all but one (Montreal) have above-average incomes
- all but two (Hamilton and Surrey/Langley, B.C.) have higher than the national rate of post-secondary graduates

	Immigrant population	Life expectancy (years)	Average income* (\$25,000)	Postsecondary graduates (ages 25-64)
<b>CANADA</b>	17.4%	78.4	\$25,194	51.5%
1. Toronto	47.6	79.4	27,532	55.8
2. Vancouver/Victoria	45.5	79.2	25,671	64.4
3. Winnipeg/Brandon/Saskatoon, Sask.	35	80.1	30,921	65.8
4. Burnaby/Vancouver, B.C.	31.6	79.1	28,621	57.5
5. North West Vancouver	31	80.5	35,081	68
6. Markham/Victoria Hill, Ont.	37.2	79.6	29,445	55.3
7. Montreal	39.5	78.1	23,587	54.6
8. Surrey/Langley & C.	25.6	79.8	27,211	51
9. Kelowna	24.6	78	25,144	50.5
10. Calgary	23.9	79.5	28,863	58.3

\*Average 1996 income among residents aged 15 and over

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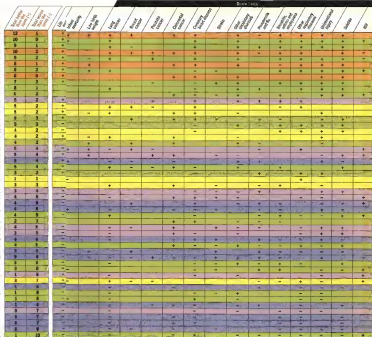
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**Where are the healthiest Canadians?** The comparison showing the best results over a wide range of health indicators came in clusters, particularly in and around Vancouver and Toronto. The two left-most columns of the chart tally the categories in which Seniors Canada has deemed a health region's results to be significantly better (+) or worse (-) than the Canadian norm. (A blank space indicates results close to the norm.) Because the significance of indicators varies considerably (lung cancer, for instance, claims eight times as many lives a year as heart-chest, asthma and emphysema combined), the totals were in a broad indicator of overall health and cannot be interpreted as a strict ranking.

	British Columbia		Quebec
	Prairie		Atlantic

population. Lower rates indicate success in disease prevention, detection and treatment. (From: lung cancer: 49.2; breast cancer: 39.3; prostate cancer: 29.7; colorectal cancer: 19.4; coronary heart disease: 136.4; stroke: 48.4; other circulatory diseases: 61; pneumonia and flu: 23.5; tuberculosis, asthma and emphysema: 6.1; other respiratory diseases: 30.3; unintentional injury: 22.2; suicide: 12.9; HIV: 0.)



# Toronto? One of the Healthiest?

By Mark Nichols

Megan Bosworth believes that to stay well, "you have to take control of your health." In November, 1994, she did exactly that: Feeling unwell, she wondered whether the cause might be a lump in her right breast that a doctor had assured her a few years earlier was not a problem. She demanded a mammogram and later underwent a biopsy, which confirmed her fears—the lump was malignant. Surgery to remove it, followed by chemotherapy and radiation, left Bosworth, 50, apparently free of cancer—and fired by a new determination to look after her health. Aiming for "a more balanced way of life," she and her husband, John, who restores vintage cars for a living, moved from a village outside Toronto to a farm about 125 km northwest of the city. There, Bosworth works off stress every day by riding handback for about an hour and a half. At work, she makes a point of taking "latchline walks." "I try to be as active as I can," says Bosworth. "I watch my diet and avoid coffee and fatty foods. Staying healthy is a driving force in almost everything I do."

Bosworth says that her job as office administrator for the health services department in York region, north of Toronto, has increased her awareness of health. But experts say that Toronto and the neighbouring regions of York (Simcoe) (including Markham and Richmond Hill) and Halton (Halton Hills, Mississauga, Brampton, Oakville and Burlington) have a high proportion of health-conscious citizens of all walks of life.

That, they add, is one important reason the area generally shows excellent results in the *Macleod Health Region* survey of 51 Canadian health regions. According to the *Statcan* Canada data in the survey, the sprawling region, bursting with newly arrived immigrants, economic growth and new housing projects, has above-average life expectancy and below-normal death rates from the three main causes: cancer, heart failure and respiratory disease.

Overall, the region ranks above the national average in important socioeconomic determinants of health: income, numbers of high-school and post-secondary graduates, and employment rates, and below average in the proportion of low-income earners in the population. The slight exception is Toronto itself, where, says Dr. Sheila Barua, the city's medical officer of health, "the socioeconomic determinants of health are not as good—we have a disproportionate number of poorly educated and low-income people." Although the results for Canada's largest city place it among the healthiest communities, it ranks above the national average in the number of babies with low birth weights—a condition that often leads to poor health later in life.

Still, Toronto, like the regions beside it, benefits from having a high proportion of well-educated citizens dedicated to healthy lifestyles. Typical of the breed is Brandon Marks, a 26-year-old Torontonian with a degree in chemical engineering who currently devotes his life to rock climbing. Marks, who has pursued his interest around North America and Europe, was instructor at a Toronto climbing club "Slaying It," he says, "was an important part of my life. I'm healthy and I'm in good shape, and I intend to stay that way."

The combination of a generally health-conscious populace in an area rich in medical services pays off in the statistics



Marks on a climb: "I'm healthy, in good shape, and I intend to stay that way."

for heart disease and cancer—two of the leading causes of death among Canadians. Southern Ontarians with heart problems benefit from having relatively easy access to specialists, says Dr. Thomas Rubana, head of cardiology at the Trillium Health Centre, which has sites in west-end Toronto and Mississauga. But just as important is the fact that, because of better education and income, the majority of people in the region are likely to be aware of major risk factors for heart disease, such as a poor diet, lack of exercise—and smoking. "By the time patterns are set," says Rubana, "they know they should have given smoking. That doesn't mean they all have, but they know they should."

When it comes to cancer, Dr. Richard Schabas, head of preventive oncology at Cancer Care Ontario, has a different explanation for the lower incidence and mortality rates in the Toronto region. High standards of living and educational levels make a difference, he says. But so does the concentration of new arrivals from other countries, who made up nearly half the population of Toronto in 1996. "It's the healthy migrant effect," says Schabas. "People from the Far East and some European countries have lower cancer rates, especially for breast, colon, and prostate cancer."

As bright as things look in the region, public-health experts have nagging concerns for the future. They cite, for example, the formidable needs of a growing population of older residents, widening income inequalities, a small but troubling increase in cases of tuberculosis and some other infectious diseases, and the scarcity of some types of physicians. Dr. Bob Noel, medical officer of health for the Halton region, west of Toronto, is also concerned about worsening traffic. "That increases stress levels and cuts into leisure time," he says, "while the growing number of vehicles affects air quality."

York region's medical officer of health, Dr. Helena Jacob, also has herbodings. "People are working longer hours to make ends meet," she says. "A lot of people are not getting enough exercise, and more people living in the region are eating too much fat and not enough fibre. These things can affect disease and death rates 20 years from now." The experts' fears suggest that unless the trend can be reversed, risky lifestyles and environmental hazards could someday undermine the region's currently enviable status of health. ■

## Consistently Above Average

Health regions in and around Toronto post healthy numbers for some vital indicators

	Life expectancy (years)	Cancer deaths (per 100,000)	Chronic diseases deaths (per 100,000)	Respiratory diseases deaths (per 100,000)
Ontario (national average)	76.4	245.7	245.8	95.5
Toronto	79.4	241.6	205.4	51.7
Markham (Simcoe) MRF	79.6	275.8	236.2	55
Mississauga (Brampton/Burlington)	80.1	259.9	214.8	50.6



Health Report Cover

# Lifestyle Dividends

By Chris Wood in Vancouver

The ascent begins beyond a chain-link fence and a door that is locked between sunset and sunrise. Signs call attention to its mission, warning the unwary that a misstep could cost them their lives. Still, hundreds of people daily find the Grouse Grind irresistible. A hair-raising 2.9-km hiking trail that twists, turns and clings to the side of North Vancouver's Grouse Mountain as it aggressively climbs 2,800 feet, the Grind is an infamous test of endurance. "We go against the clock," explains North Vancouver hotel employee Stuart Walder, setting out his watch. His best time up the trail is 62 minutes. Later, like most climbers, he will take a cable car back down the mountain—solving, sure and a triumphant few thousand steps closer to his real goal: "Keeping fit and turning the corner on the fic."

Walder, 34, admits he has a way to go to that end—so say nothing of matching the Grind record of 27 minutes and 18 seconds. But he can partly claim to be helping his community earn another distinction. A Marathon marking of the de-

livery of health care last June identified British Columbia's North Shore—North and West Vancouver and the other affluent communities across Burnaby Inlet from Vancouver—as the country's best-served region. Now, that week's latest Health Report confirms the North Shore's 175,000 people among the healthiest of Canadians. In 12 of 16 critical categories of Statistics Canada data reflecting health status, the North Shore scores significantly above the national average. In deaths from stroke and prostate cancer and HIV, its scores are in line with averages. Only in one area does the region fare significantly worse than the nation: the rate of deaths from flu and pneumonia.

Those results stand out even by the high standards of several nearby B.C. health regions: Neighbouring Vancouver/Richmond, South Fraser Valley (encompassing Surrey, Langley and White Rock) and Simon Fraser (Coquitlam, Burnaby and New Westminster), as well as the capital region embracing Vic-

torias, all show an exceptionally broad range of healthy signs in the survey.

But what accounts for the North Shore's outstanding results? The fact that it is among Canada's wealthiest and best-educated regions is doubt plays a part. But that does not tell the whole story. Similarly well-off communities elsewhere did not score as well in areas of health determinants. And despite its overall wealth, the North Shore has numerous pockets of socioeconomic vulnerability, including a fast-growing elderly population, single-parent families and four First Nations reserves.

Another explanation for the region's good health can be found in natural endowments that offer a surge of year-round outdoor activities unsurpassed in Canada (or most anywhere else). That, in turn, may have a lot to do with a phenomenon clearly at work on the North Shore: a culture of fitness. From the usual (where they stroll and in-line skate) to their mountain summits (where they will soon be skiing and snowboarding), these are people who, for the most part, consider good cardio response a lot closer to golf than their mere destination.

Consider physician Dr. Joyce Davies, who emerges from the Grind with leaves in her hair and earth scuffed into the lines of her trousers. In the previous week, she says, she has hiked uphill about 9,000 vertical feet—nearly two miles straight up. Davies is 76. Around the North Shore, she says, "if you are a fit sloth coming along, they're from somewhere else. It has nothing to do with poverty or wealth. It's lifestyle."

The lifestyle does not come cheap. Housing is the most expensive in the nation. Those who can afford to live on the North Shore have household incomes averaging \$73,000 a year, 30 per cent higher than the national figure. (In West Vancouver, that average reaches \$97,000.) Acknowledges Dr. Ben O'Connor, the regional medical health officer: "Good education leads to good employment, leads to good incomes, leads to a good quality of life." And to a population that knows how to get what it needs. "If you're a middle-class person, able

to deal easily with other middle-class professionals, you'll get your problems solved," notes O'Connor. "Whether they are health issues or political issues, they will be dealt with."

Not all North Shore residents meet that description. The region's two First Nations—the Squamish and Tsalil-wasut—don't enjoy the same robust good health as many of their neighbours. A significant and growing number of elderly residents and young families strain to meet the demand living costs. Then are even some homeless people. Ironically, they get less help on the North Shore than they would in Canada's poorest neighbourhood, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. "In a community of such affluence we become blind," O'Connor laments. "We don't notice the people living on the margins."

But affluence on its own may matter less than the access it buys to some of nature's most spectacular exercise equipment. Goldsmith Julia Baker keeps her 46-year-old muscles tested by hiking up West Vancouver's hills, skiing in season, working out at the gym and doing the Grind twice a week. "Health may

## Good health abounds in Vancouver and its wealthy North Shore suburbs

play a role in the region's health, she says, "but people of any economic status with a decent part of shoes can go hiking." The low-cost activity attracts hundreds of people weekly to North Shore trails. Many clubs organize group outings for various skill levels.

Then, though, it's no ordinary hiking. Outdoorman and forest ecologist Paul Vaughan, 28, spends his retirement in his native New Brunswick just to move to the North Shore's mountainous terrain. Now, he's on a living leading an average of three hiking groups a week. Because hiking, jogging or biking anywhere on the North Shore involves a lot of going uphill, Vaughan contends it provides a superior workout. "You can ride a bike on the flats in Sukkothewah a while day," he argues, "and not get the benefits you do in an hour riding up the mountain."

Across the North Shore, public-health officials work with municipal recreation departments to cross-promote each other's services. At the year-old Parkgate Community Centre in the region's east, public-health nurses share space with municipal recreation co-ordinators and a non-profit community society. Next door is a library, and the building's drop-in recreation runs from leisure games to pickup basketball.

Large green parks beckon 25-foot climbing walls. Down the hill are a weight room, sauna and studios for pottery, painting and dance. "I can show by example," says assistant recreation co-ordinator Peggy Candio, "that you can take up hiking in your 70s." From the snowfall to the community centre to the Grind, Canada's healthiest region leaves no excuse for slouch—at any age. ■

## West Coast Wellness

The Vancouver area ranks high in some key measures of health

	Life expectancy (years)	Current deaths (per 100,000)	Circulatory disease deaths (per 100,000)	Coronary heart disease deaths (per 100,000)
National average	77.1	135.7	245.8	126.4
Vancouver/Richmond	79.2	124.4	202.7	104.4
North/West Vancouver	80.5	102.9	208.3	100
Surrey/Langley	78.6	167.0	233.3	126.9

Source: Statistics Canada, 2000



## Health Report Cover

# The Alberta Paradox

Striking at the opposite of an economic boom, Alberta's two largest cities are, in many ways, the city of the nation. Unemployment is low, incomes are high and residents are, for the most part, well-educated. If superior socio-economic status usually translates into a healthy population—and the experts agree that it does—Edmontonians and Calgaryites should, it would seem, be among the leaders in the (Mainland) Health Report survey. But that is not the case. While Edmonton and Calgary fare considerably better across a range of health indicators than several other major centres—including Montreal and Halifax—their health profiles are no match for those from large chunks of British Columbia's Lower Mainland and the affluent regions around Toronto.

So what gives? There are few definitive explanations, but Alberta health-care experts offer some informed speculation. Possible factors include everything from access in the workplace and smoking habits to the spectre of urban poverty in the midst of affluence. But behind it all is a hint of bafflement as to why the Alberta cities did not do better in the survey. "It's a fascinating question," says University of Alberta health-care economist Richard Plam. "But it is also likely a pretty tough nut to crack."

Plus offers a couple of theories. Edmonton and Calgary, being the two largest health regions in a relatively sparsely populated province, act as a magnet for people from outlying communities. The sick and elderly, he explains, tend to move into

By Calgary's Dow Pitter, chronic smoking and a hard-served work ethic

the cities as their health deteriorates. A concurrent development is that Alberta's more affluent—and more robust—retirees often head to the West Coast for their sunset years. "It could be," says Plam, "that relatively healthier people are moving out of the Prairies and into Vancouver and Victoria."

Gerry Priddy, the Edmonton region's medical officer of health, says one factor that may be affecting the area's overall results is a significant low-income population—many of them Aboriginal people—in the city's inner core. Babies born in that part of the city are far more likely to have a low birth weight, which, in turn, drives up the rates of infant mortality and other health complications. Priddy also points out that, although Alberta is enjoying its lowest birth rate now, unemployment levels were higher through much of the 1980s and 1990s. "The rates of disease and mortality may not reflect the current economic situation," he says, "but what went on before."

Others cite the prevalence of smoking as a likely culprit. The latest Health Canada statistics show that, among those aged 15 and older, 27 per cent of Albertans are smokers, compared with 24 per cent in Ontario and 20 per cent in British Columbia, where the healthiest survey results appear. "These provinces have been really aggressive in promoting smoke-free environments," says Kobi Jivraj, senior vice-president and chief medical officer for the Calgary health region. "We've been a bit behind on that."

A clash of cultures may also be behind some of the differences, says Art Quinney, past chairman of the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute. "Vancouver has a reputation as a laid-back kind of city that values free time," notes Quinney, who currently serves as an associate vice-president at the University of Alberta. "Calgary and Edmonton are much more focused on entrepreneurship and a hard-served work ethic."

Then again, could it be as simple as diet? Albertans are famously fond of their meat, homegrown beef. But as Priddy, among others, points out, beef is much leaner than it used to be and the

fat content in most people's diet comes from processed foods, french fries and the like. On the other hand, recent surveys do show that the average Albertan eats less than the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables. "This is pure speculation, but people in Vancouver and Toronto tend to have greater access to fresh produce than people in Calgary or Edmonton," says University of Calgary nursing professor Lorraine Watson. "Could that be part of it?"

It serves as good a theory to try.

Brian Bergman in Calgary

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# Condition Critical

Now dawns through the grey Montreal sky on a bone-chilling October morning. But the icy cold is far with Linda Cooper as she jogs through an almost deserted Mount Royal park. "On a day like today it's fabulous," exclaims Cooper, 52, a professor at McGill University's faculty of education. "It's refreshing and inspiring." Running has been a fixture in Cooper's life since her teen years. Her family shares a similar exercise ethic. A few hundred metres away, her husband, Ellis, dashes past the colour-plashed trees near Beaver Lake. Then two daughters work out. Even their shaggy golden retriever, *Allegro*, has been running with them for a decade. Cooper's goal is not to go farther or faster, but simply to avoid getting injured. "I just want to be able to maintain this forever," she says. "I want to be jogging when I'm 80."

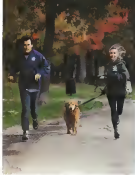
Her health-conscious lifestyle may help Cooper much that winter. Unfortunately, many Quebecers may not fare as well. The *Maclean's* Health Report paints a gloomy picture of Quebecers' overall health. Of the 51 Canadian health regions included in the analysis of health data, almost all of Quebec's 11 regions fall into the bottom half of the pack. The findings are based on a broad series of 16 health indicators from

## Five of 11 Quebec regions are among the worst in the country

life expectancy to coronary heart disease, cancer deaths and suicides. Five of the Quebec regions—those including Trois-Rivières, St-Jérôme, Joliette, Hull and Châteauguay—post among

the worst results in the country. Only Lével fares relatively well, placing midway through the pack. On a more positive note, all but one of the Quebec regions (Joliette) record lower-than-average death rates from pneumonia and flu. The results cannot be used as a strict ranking. But in pointing to problem areas, they reinforce the gravity of some key health issues facing Quebec, from high overall cancer death rates to an alarming number of suicides. Deaths from colorectal cancer surpass the national average in nine of the Quebec regions, with Châteauguay posting the worst rate in the province. Even more grim are lung cancer deaths, with Quebec rates, nearly among men, far exceeding the national average.

If lung cancer deaths are excluded, Quebec health officials note, the province's cancer mortality rate falls much in line with the rest of Canada's. But they readily concede the havoc still wreaked by cigarettes. "I think we can continue to say that Quebec is the smoking section of Canada," says Dr.



The Coopers running with their retriever, *Allegro*, working to stay healthy in what one doctor calls "the smoking section of Canada."

Marcel Boudanger, head of a provincial smoking prevention group. Eager to shed the dubious label, the government now covers the costs of the nicotine patch, anti-smoking guns and Zyban, a medication that reduces the desire to smoke, under its drug insurance plan.

Montreal and eastern agglomeration, 56, is one of the challenging cases that Boudanger deals with at a Montreal smoking cessation clinic. Most kept smoking a pack a day despite two heart attacks, one cardiac arrest, several angiography procedures to clear blocked arteries and the installation of a pacemaker. Efforts to quit on his own have failed. But Morin began taking Zyban in late September and says he has already cut his cigarette consumption in half. "With medical help and greater motivation, Morin is determined to quit altogether this week. "It's going to work," he insists. "I'm convinced."

On another troubling health front, with the number of suicides in Quebec rising in recent decades, the rate in all but one of the Quebec regions, Montreal, significantly exceeds the national average. It is particularly acute among Quebec men. "It's the leading cause of death among men under 40," says Danielle St-Laurent, an epidemiologist with the province's public health institute. "When I tell people that, they are astounded."

Researchers at Statistics Canada suggest one reason for Quebec's high rates is the diligence of the province's coroners in keeping track of unexplained deaths and filing them as suicides once the cause is established. But St-Laurent believes that even if underreported numbers in other provinces were corrected, Quebec would still have the highest rate in Canada. Across a broad spectrum of indicators, Quebec's health challenges are clear.

Brenda Brastwell in Montreal

# NAUTICA



# The Atlantic Malaise

When Tamiya Corleum got divorced in 1999, she looked in the mirror and cringed. Chances of meeting a guy seemed slim for a mother of one who tipped the scales at 220 lb. Two years later, through a combination of diet and exercise, she had shed 80 lb. And, she soon, found a new husband. But by then, Corleum had seen the light. She has regained a few pounds, but the 34-year-old purchaser at a university bookstore in Halifax will work hard to maintain her target weight of 160 lb. She tries to eat no fat and limits her alcohol intake to a few beers on the weekend. The former couch potato also plays squash and goes for long walks. And for good measure, each weekday lunch hour she sweats through a 60- to 90-minute cardiovascular workout to keep the pounds off her five-foot, eleven-inch frame. "I hate every minute of it," she says. "But I feel I have to do it."

Clearly, not everyone in Atlantic Canada feels the same compulsion. The *Atlantic Health Report* finds the region lagging the pack in many respects when it comes to consumer health. Only three of nine health regions in the survey east of Quebec—Moncton, N.B., Fredericton and Prince Edward Island—appear in the leading half of the chart that tallies above and below-average results in 16 key indicators. The major cities of St. John's, Nfld. (fourth that average in three categories, below average in four), and Halifax/Dartmouth (four above and six below) show signs of mediocre health. Economically depressed Cape Breton—with the highest death rate from cancer and the third-highest

**'Unless there is a paradigm shift, things are going to get worse'**

from respiratory ailments of the 51 regions surveyed—emerges as one of the least healthy parts of the land.

Across Atlantic Canada, the picture is grim. Everywhere but Moncton, life expectancy is below the norm. With the exception of Fredericton, cancer death rates are higher than average. "Obesity is a huge issue," concedes Dennis Furlong, Nova Brunswick's minister of health and wellness. "Unless there is a paradigm shift down here, things are only going to get worse."

Lifestyle is an obvious place to start. As a group, Atlantic Canadians tend to exercise less, drink more alcohol and carry more weight—factors that can contribute to arthritis, diabetes, circulatory disease and a host of other ills plaguing the



Corleum, backing the trend in a region of below-normal health

region. Another problem, dangerously high smoking rates. They are above the Canadian average in all four provinces and the worst in the country in Nova Scotia, where fully 29 per cent of people over 14 smoke.

No wonder governments and health-care professionals are anxious to deal with the root causes of the region's health woes. New Brunswick has started educating children as early as kindergarten in the importance of diet and exercise and the dangers of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. A year ago, Newfoundland began implementing a Tobacco Reduction Strategy to try to win smokers off their habit. Five months ago, the Nova Scotia government doubled the \$450,000 budget of its Tobacco Control Unit, set up to implement a province-wide anti-smoking initiative. And this year, that province will spend \$4 million on Cancer Care Nova Scotia, a two-year-old agency co-ordinating the province's broad strategy for lowering the high cancer death toll through increased education and early detection. "The majority of cancer patients here or anywhere develop the disease for no apparent reason," stresses the agency's commissioners, Dr. Andrew Padnos. "The only way to fight it is to get it early."

For all of that, the road to wellness seems dauntingly long. Dr. Jeff Scott, Nova Scotia's medical officer of health, says nothing will really improve until the region's health-care status changes. "So much illness," he says, "can be traced back to the inequalities in the system—the lack of jobs, the poor educational opportunities for people who live here." That's a problem that even endless hours on the treadmill cannot solve.

John DeMott in Halifax

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# The Enemy Within

By Julian Beltrame

About once a week, the nine members of the Hénac subcommittee on organized crime secretly gather in a spacious room on Parliament Hill. There has been no prior notice of the meeting, no published witness list and certainly no media invited to report on the proceedings. Outside, a security official stands guard. As unusual as the precautions appear, members have also discussed sweeping the rosters for electronic bugs and requesting police protection, proposals still under consideration. "We're dealing with very dangerous people," says Bloc Québécois MP Pierre Venne. "Some MPs have received threats and they are afraid for themselves and their families." But mostly, adds Guislain Gervais of the Canadian Alliance, the strict security measures are to reassure the witnesses. "We wouldn't get some people to testify if they thought their names would get out," he told Maclean's.

No wonder. Even before the brazen daylight shooting of Montreal crime reporter Michel Auger last month, the MPs had learned enough about the scourge they were investigating to be wary. They had already been briefed on the deadly turf war between rival biker gangs in Montreal, which, by police reckoning, has left 154 dead, including some bystanders, over the past six years. They had heard of the gang's attempts to threaten and kidnap, the murder of two prison guards and of efforts to fuel the illicit drug trade by intimidating Quebec farmers into allowing marijuana to be grown on their land. And they knew that one of their own, Bloc Québécois MP Yvon Landry, remained under special RCMP protection after he, his wife and young daughter survived death threats last year because he complained about the farmers' plight.

But now there was something new. Last May, recently appointed RCMP commissioner Graham Gosselin, the subcommittee's first witness, warned that Canadian society was be-

Ottawa faces calls to clamp down on organized crime—especially bikers



Photo: Michel Auger

ing systematically penetrated by four types of organized gangs—the bikers, the Mafia, and Black European and Asian mobs—whose activities have taken them well beyond traditional crimes involving drugs, gambling, extortion and prostitution and into people-trafficking and "increasingly elaborate forms of financial crime." Then, Zaccarelli invoked an unexpected spectre, even Canada's very political system may be subject to corruption. As he explained to reporters last month, "For the first time in this country, we are seeing signs of criminal organizations that are so sophisticated that they are focusing on dismantling certain aspects of our society—even the parliamentary system."

If true, the evidence of Canada's top crime fighter leaves the committee and the government grappling with an uneasy capability of perverting the country's most cherished institutions. And efforts by the most notorious of Montreal's warring biker gangs, the Hells Angels and the Rock Machine, to work out a peace agreement only heighten the peril. Enemies united make exponentially more formidable adversaries to law enforcement, says Gervais. "It's a case of two plus two equaling five for the bad guys," he notes.

For many, the pattern and future danger calls for the most drastic of solutions. Some politicians, particularly the Bloc in Ottawa and the Parti Québécois in Quebec, are demanding that the federal government declare an outright ban on membership in organized crime groups, and others be damned. Not since the War Measures Act was used against the Front de libération du Québec during the October Crisis 30 years ago has membership in an organization been considered a crime in Canada. But Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe insists the draconian measure is needed, even if it requires overriding guarantees in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms by invoking the notwithstanding clause. "If

*Hells Angels in Quebec? Auger (opposite) fears that Canadian society is being systematically penetrated*

such a law would have [captured] the FLQ, so be it," Duceppe told Maclean's. "The FLQ was not a democratic organization."

Invoking the notwithstanding clause is not an option. Prime Minister Jean Charest, who was among those who convinced Pierre Trudeau to include the controversial provision in the 1982 Constitution, noted with pride recently that he had been correct in predicting it would seldom be used. But now, facing an election, the Liberal government is anxious to

counter opposition charges that it is soft on crime. In question period recently, Justice Minister Anne McLellan did her best to show the government is taking the problem seriously. "We are looking at all possible measures in terms of dealing with the challenges of organized crime," she said. "We believe there is much we can do both in terms of the enforcement side and the legislation side that does not involve us using the notwithstanding clause."

Senators have told Maclean's that department lawyers are drawing up proposals to give McLellan several options for putting more teeth in the law without resorting to criminalizing membership in specific gangs. They include making provisions against intimidation stronger, giving judges the option of keeping the identity of jury members from defendants, and expanding the ability of the police to break the law in undercover operations. The bureaucrats are also investigating measures deployed by other countries to crack down on organized crime. "There's plenty of room to move without resorting to the most harsh of crime prevention," says one official, refusing to specify that fall short of criminalizing gang membership.

The angle most promising option may be adapting a law for Canada that's been on the books in the United States for 30 years. Known as the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, the measure has been used to bring such notables as John Gotti, among others, to justice. Its true worth, however, is allowing the state to seize the property of organizations shown to have participated in criminal activities under the civil burden of proof—preponderance of evidence—rather than "beyond a reasonable doubt" as required in criminal cases. Canadian justice officials say the lower threshold makes it possible to financially cripple criminal gangs even when there is insufficient evidence to send their members to jail.

This would not be the first time the government has tried to pass a law aimed at ridding its criminal organizations. In 1997, the Liberals amended the Criminal Code to make "penetration" into a criminal organization an offence punishable by 14 years in prison. The legislation was hailed at the time as an important weapon in the war against organized crime—although its value remains in question. Chartist under the section have been laid against 62 members of an Asian gang in Edmonton, while Montreal prosecutor Jean-Claude Boyer says he plans to



## For some politicians, the situation calls for the most drastic of solutions

medicinal-gang provisions against several members of the Rock Machine motorcycle gang, who earlier this month were on trial on trafficking and robbery charges. Still, Boyer is critical of the law, which he says requires the Crown to prove offences were committed for the benefit of a criminal organization. "The burden of proof has been made heavier for the Crown," he says.

If questions remain about the adequacy of the criminal law, there is little dispute that police resources are sorely strained. Police forces from St. John's to Victoria suffered budget cuts during the 1990s. The RCMP's strength of regular members has been pared to 14,447 this year from 15,217 in 1995, although the reduction has been partly offset by a slight increase in civilian employees. Dennis Furell, a retired RCMP deputy commissioner who headed the force in British Columbia until 1997, says the cutbacks devastated organized crime investigations, which require a large outlay of time, money and manpower. "The police are doing a good job given their resources," he says, "but let's face it, police are completely overwhelmed by what's happening today."

Prosecutors claim they, too, are not equipped to handle organized crime. In Quebec, the jurisdiction most afflicted by biker gangs, "we lack prosecutors and we lack resources to get ahead," laments Claude Girard, head of Quebec's Crown prosecutors' association. Successive provincial Liberal and PQ governments have reduced the number of prosecutions in the province by 16 per cent since 1991. "Even in the best scenarios, we find ourselves with two Crown attorneys against five or six defence lawyers," he adds. The government is now committed to hiring more prosecutors.

As bureaucrats and politicians ponder their next move, some wonder if the battle is not already lost. Despite the arrest of a Hells Angels leader, Maurice (Moe) Boucher, last week on charges he ordered the murders of two prison guards in 1997—a charge for which he was acquitted during his first trial—Girard believes if the biker war is indeed over, police will encounter even more difficulty obtaining witnesses. Moreover, the absence of gangland killings will no doubt take the bikers' infamous operations off the front pages, removing the pressure on government to act. "We should have taken action against organized crime 15 years ago," says the Alliance MP. "It's too late for prevention," he adds. "These groups are so entrenched and sophisticated, all we can do now is damage control."



Boucher: police say the gangs are not untouchable

## Trying to end a gang war

His arrest last Tuesday, outside a suburban Montreal eatery accompanied by unmarked police cars, was clearly not part of Maurice (Moe) Boucher's script. Only two days earlier, at a chic downtown seafood restaurant, the Quebec Hells Angels' longhen had dined with Frédéric Potvin, the acting head of the real Rock Machine. It was their second very public tête-à-tête in two weeks—they even summoned a crime reporter and his photographer to take pictures of the cozy meeting, held to discuss a possible truce in their vicious turf war over drugs. But that was quickly overshadowed by Boucher's arrest. Police nabbed him a few hours after the Quebec Superior Court said he should be retried for the 1997 murders of two prison guards. Boucher was acquitted in 1998 on charges that he ordered the killings. But the appeal court ruled that the trial judge erred in his instructions to the jury. That decision, according to Sgt. Guy Ouellette, a biker expert with Que-

bec's provincial police, sends a clear message: "Even if the gangs seem untouchable, they are not."

Vulnerability may be at the heart of the current peace negotiations between the two sides. The talks are renewed, Ouellette says, by public demands to give law-enforcement officials more ammunition to fight organized crime after the Sept. 13 shooting of *Journal de Montréal* crime reporter Michel Auger—believed to be the work of bikers facing the possibility of

a crackdown, representatives from the two gangs last week continued their efforts to reach a truce, despite Boucher's arrest.

"They have not yet been successful," Bou cannot solve an years of war in 45 minutes," Ouellette notes. Especially a war that inflamed the fight between the two gangs over drug territory, which erupted in 1994 in Montreal and then spread to Quebec City, has claimed 154 lives. But if the talks end in an agreement, the gangs may emerge from a truce even stronger and better organized to pursue their illicit activities—if there is no government action. Ouellette cites the example of Soudan, where biker gangs, faced with a government crackdown, announced a truce in 1997. But, says Ouellette, anti-gang legislation was never passed, police resources were retrained, and crime shot up 200 per cent a year later, mostly in the drug and sex trades controlled by the bikers. Quebec, however, narrowly avoided plans to spend more money to fight organized crime. It is unlikely to be enough, now, many observers say, it is time for Ottawa to show some muscle.

Brenda Burnsell is in Montreal

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# The Labrador doctor

By John DeMott  
in St. Anthony

The path up Tin House Hill winds through thick woods until it comes to a small clearing containing the large building containing Sir Wilfred Grenfell's ashes are sealed. Those remains had quite a journey from Vermont, where the English-born medical missionary and social reformer died of a heart attack in 1949 at age 75, to three separate personal services in Boston, New York City and St. John's, Nfld. But Grenfell's final resting place was always destined to be beside his wife, Anne, atop a quiet hill on Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula. From there, visitors can see the blue waters on which he sailed north to Labrador, the stark land that stirred his imagination, heart and ambition. And, of course, they can look down upon the town of St. Anthony, the main base for the medical, philanthropic and religious mission movement that transformed his name into a worldwide symbol of selfless service.

St. Anthony—population 3,000—does its best to promote his life and legacy. He was larger than life—a hero and humanitarian whose personal charisma and adventurous spirit not only made him an international celebrity, but also helped attract huge sums and worldwide attention to his cause. So, it is no surprise that St. Anthony, which had a population of about 200 when Grenfell opened his first permanent hospital there in 1900, has turned his burial site into a nature trail and transformed his home into a museum. Grenfell Regional Health Services Board, which continues to provide health care throughout northern Newfoundland and southern Labrador, still bears his name, as does a park and the



Grenfell with a young patient, infirmary service

Grenfell Interpretation Centre, which last year drew 12,000 visitors interested in his life. And even now, 60 years after his death, it is still possible to meet people living in the settlement whom Grenfell has touched. "It is such an inspiring story," says Jane Johannessen, the superintendent of alcohol health services at GRHS, who moved from her native Sweden to St. Anthony in 1974 to help carry on Grenfell's work. "He was driven to try to do great things under the most difficult circumstances."

From the start, he seemed bound for glory. Grenfell's path was set at age 22 when the medical student wandered into a London revival tent to hear a pair of American evangelists speak, and emerged vowing to devote his life to practical Christianity. In 1892, the 26-year-old with the missionary bent was aboard the hospital vessel *Albatross*, under the auspices of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, a British charitable organization, bound for Labrador to evangelize conditions among the migrant

His real genius was for fund-raising and attracting volunteers who bought into his humanitarian vision

fishermen and year-round folk who lived there. The people he met inspired him as "accomplishing, optimistic, splendidly moralistic, cheerful and generous." The conditions in which they lived, though, were worse than any London slum. "Deficiencies were universal," he wrote after the initial voyage. "Filthiness and rickets carried on their evil work unchecked."

He married a year later with two doctors, a pair of nurses and a cattle large enough to consume all his energy, and reformers and for the next 47 years. The popular image of Grenfell means frozen in time and myth, an accomplished so-called muscular Christian, travelling by dog sled and steam-driven hospital ship to bring desperately needed health care and Christian teachings to the forgotten

such in a faraway corner of the world.

But his real genius was for fund-raising and attracting volunteers who bought into his humanitarian vision. It helped that Grenfell was a subject of interest to reporters from the United States, Canada and Britain who helped to raise public awareness of the "Labrador doctor" who was devoting his life to improving the lot of the downtrodden. Grenfell added to his own legend through international tours and his 23 books—including *Adrift on an Ice Floe* (1909), his account of his adventures on the ice floe, which went into 18 editions. By the 1920s, the New York-based International Grenfell Association ran a series of five hospitals and six nursing stations along the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Quebec's north shore. The founder



The doctor and his dog were charismatics

was an international celebrity and was knighted in 1927.

Dr. William Fitzgerald, 56, who came to St. Anthony in 1976 and is chief of surgery at the GRHS, insists that people like him and Johannessen may be among the last drawn to St. Anthony by Grenfell's example. "The people who work here have different priorities today," he says. "Many of them just view it as a stepping stone to elsewhere." Grenfell, on the other hand, stayed and built a legacy that lives on to this day. ■

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## Tragedy after a drinking party

Two teenagers died and at least 10 others were ill, two of them critically, following a Thanksgiving weekend party near the central Newfoundland fishing town of Hant Bay. The youths, aged 16 to 19, drank methanol, the toxic ingredient in antifreeze, which they found in soft-drink bottles at a cottage.

## Doctor guilty of manslaughter

Abraham Cooper, a 68-year-old general practitioner in the northwestern Alberta town of Fairview, was convicted of manslaughter in the death of Doug Snider, a 59-year-old colleague, whose body has not been found. Cooper, who had been charged with first-degree murder, was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

## Too drunk to drive

Wanda Beach, Ont., resident Linda Leigh Hunt, 50, took the stand in her \$1-million lawsuit against her former employer, Sutton Group Incentives Realty Inc., of Barrie. Hunt charges that the company was negligent in allowing her to drive home from a Christmas party in 1996. She was involved in a collision that initially left her in a coma and caused severe injuries that prevented her return to work. A toxicology testified that she had twice the legal limit of alcohol in her blood at the time of the accident.

## Gus goes to jail

Gillian Gus, the 45-year-old Vancouver resident of two teenagers who became sexually involved with an accused murderer while serving as a judge at his 1998 trial, has begun serving 18 months for obstruction of justice. Gus had appealed her conviction but was turned down. The trial involving Boaz Gil, her former lover, and five other men ended in their acquittal.

## Rape shield law upheld

The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously upheld a 1992 law that restricts the right of defence lawyers to question victims about past sexual conduct in sexual assault cases. The court issued the ruling in the case of an Ottawa man convicted of assaulting a former girlfriend.

## Getting ready for a fall election

The numbers will certainly be useful ammunition for an eager and confident Prime Minister who is inching for an election. The latest public opinion poll from Ottawa-based Ekos Research Associates Inc. gives Jean Chrétien's Liberals 50 per-cent support among decided voters versus just 19 per cent for Stockwell Day and the Canadian Alliance. Furthermore, the Liberals lead in all provinces except the Alliance stronghold of Alberta. "The poll could only surface the PM's conviction that a fall election is quite workable," concludes Ekos president Frank Graves. "If they're already thinking about it, this is no green-light poll."

In fact, most observers are betting the Prime Minister will announce an Oct. 22 that Canadians will vote on Nov. 27, a mere 350 years into his current mandate. And election speculation intensified last week following reports that the Liberals were rolling for star candidates. They have approached Calgary police Chief Christine Strohberg, 50, who is leaving after five years in the job, and Chrétien had a private lunch in Ottawa with Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin, assembly to woo him back to federal politics. For the Liberals, the only bump on the road to the election call was the outcry over Chrétien's proposal to rename Mount Logan in the Yukon, Canada's highest mountain, in honour of Pierre Trudeau, a move

even some government MPs opposed. But that controversy paled next to the challenges facing the Alliance. They have failed to make a breakthrough in Ontario, the key to their prospects, attracting just 15 per-cent support there in the Ekos survey, down from 19 per cent in July. And Day created confusion by announcing that the federal Employment Insurance program is fine as it is, despite the party platform calling for significant reforms.



Chrétien, Day (right) a Liberal lead

Meanwhile, the wet suit Day wore when he pulled up to a dock on a Wince Rimmer personal watercraft for his march published Sept. 12 news conference at Lake Okanagan, B.C., was up for sale on the eBay auction Web site last week. Auctioneered by the Alliance leader, the wet suit had attracted 35 bids as of Saturday afternoon and was going for \$505 (U.S.)—\$490 more than its retail value, with proceeds to go to breast cancer research.

## Trash train north

After a stormy four-day debate, interrupted frequently by noisy hecklers who were forcibly removed from the public galleries, Toronto city council voted by a margin of 32 to 24 to begin shipping more than one million tonnes of garbage annually 300 km north to an abandoned open-pit mine near Kirkland Lake, Ont., beginning in September, 2002. The 20-year, \$1-billion agreement with Real

Cycle North, the company that would ship the trash by train, has divided southern of Kirkland Lake, who fear wrappings from the dump would contaminate groundwater. Local aboriginal leaders are vehemently opposed, and Grand Chief Carol McEldine of the Timiskaming First Nation and Timonias has declared war on northernism. "It's our, Thomas Moyer Mid Lustrum, who supports the plan. "People are afraid of the unknown. Look, it's not something I like doing."

# On the Edge of the Abyss

World leaders call for calm as the flames of war threaten to engulf the Middle East

By Eric Silver in Jerusalem

The dream of bringing peace to the Middle East faded when two Israeli soldiers made a wrong turn and ended again the centre of the Palestinian north of Ramallah. The pair were arrested, but a moment of their rescue passed, a mob of Palestinians surged towards the police station where they were being held. About 10 men broke in and stabbed the two soldiers to death before throwing their bodies into the street, where they were burned with iron bars while other Palestinians joyfully shook their fists in the air. The Israelis responded with fury. Helicopter gunships fired rockets into Ramallah and the Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat's headquarters in nearby Gaza City. "The peace process is dead," said Israeli Communications Minister Benjamin Ben-El-Mechaiech as plumes of black smoke rose over Ramallah. "Arafat's dream is a far war."

The deaths of the soldiers in Ramallah on Oct. 12 and Israel's strong response added urgency to U.S. attempts to arrange an emergency summit meeting in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh that would bring an end to the violence. After two weeks of bloodshed, nearly 100 people were dead and 3,000 wounded, the vast majority of them Palestinians. As the body count mounted under the Israeli barrage, the rush to war seemed to accelerate again when an explosives-laden rubber raft piloted by suicide bombers returned to a U.S. guided-missile destroyer and exploded in the Yemeni port of Aden, killing 17 U.S. sailors and injuring 38. Authorities believe two obscure terrorist groups may have launched the attack in retaliation over U.S. support for Israel. The killing of the Israeli soldiers and the attack on the American ship also



A dead Israeli soldier is shown from a building; his captor's bloodied hands (below) no mercy

created new complications for international efforts led by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to end the growing violence. And the uncertainty only increased with the weekend hijacking of a London-bound Saudi airliner over Egypt. "The peace process is in grave danger doesn't appear to have a chance," said Israeli army foreign minister Shimon Peres.

The current round of clashes erupted on Sept. 28, following a visit by Israeli's right-wing opposition leader, Ariel Sharon, to a holy site in Jerusalem that is sacred to both Jews and Muslims. Sharon, who was surrounded by security guards, made the trip to demonstrate that Israel has no intention of ever relinquishing control of any part of the city in a peace deal with the Palestinians. The Jews view it as the Temple Mount, where Solomon built his House of the Lord. To the Muslims, it is the Haram al-Sharif, the setting of their third-holiest mosque after those of Mecca and Medina. Most Israelis admit that Sharon's visit was the spark that ignited the violence. Increasingly, however, Israeli of the left as well as the right accuse Arafat of setting off the incident as a ploy for ending the Israeli uprising. The main difference between the 1987-1993 clashes and the current violence is that the Palestinian side now has guns as well as rocks and petrol bombs to fight with.

With the violence spreading from the West Bank and Gaza into Israeli's own Arab towns and villages, many people across the region seemed to be giving up all hope that the Oslo accord, which launched the

Mideast peace process seven years ago, would ever bear fruit. Moshe Singer, the 55-year-old manager of a job recruitment agency in the town of Bnei Brak, south of Tel Aviv, once supported the peace process. But he spoke for thousands of Israelis when he said he now has grave doubts. "The Arab policy is to let us take an inch, then grab a mile," said Singer, a father of three grown children. "Every time the Arabs have a minor victory, it becomes a major victory for them. It just goes there on."

The view from the Palestinian side has also hardened. Jihad al-Wazir, a Palestinian in his mid-30s who runs an international trade centre in Gaza, said the world, and Israel, underestimated the anger, frustration and helplessness of ordinary Palestinians. Jewish settlements kept expanding in the occupied territories and the Arabs saw no real gains from the peace process. Al Wazir's father, known as Abu Jihad, was one of Arafat's deputies, in charge of the armed struggle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He was assassinated by Israeli commandos in Harts in 1988. His widow, Umm Jihad, is now a minister in Arafat's administration. "They saw the silence of the Palestinian people in acquiescence and not the rage of the stones," Jihad al-

Wazir said. "Today, we are seeing the beginning of the storm. It is when the end of the Oslo cycle."

The Israelis continue to believe that they made important concessions that should have led down the road to peace—not war. Among them, sharing control of the administration of Jerusalem. "This government," said Ben-Ami, the acting foreign minister, "has gone to the outer limits of the capacity of any Israeli government to reach a reasonable compromise with the



An Israeli settlement in the West Bank, and the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip

## "The peace process in its present form doesn't appear to have a chance"

Palestinians. And then we get this outbreak of violence." He accused Arafat of orchestrating the violence to win over the sympathy of the international community, adding: "This cynical attempt to hijack the improvement of an international image with the blood of Palestinians is tragic."

According to Palestinian legislator Haniyeh, the impossible to bridge "The situation is critical," she said. "I think Israel should withdraw from our towns and villages, then say: Let's talk and come to arrangements." Then it might be possible to scale things down. So long as they are there, it's impossible." But Prime Minister Ehud Barak shows no sign of pulling Israeli troops out of the occupied territories—even in Arafat vowed to continue the fight. He emerged belligerent and defiant after the Israeli attack near his headquarters and vowed the wounded in a Gaza hospital. The Palestinian people, he said, will "continue their march to Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian independent state."

While Israel stepped up its military campaign, there were calls for Barak to form an emergency national-unity government. The advocates of a unity government include Communications Minister Ben-El-Mechaie, a retired general and former Vice Barak commander, along with right-wingers like Sharon, whose Likud party says it will serve under Barak only if he abandons the Oslo peace accords. Sharon, who won the monumental of Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, is widely hated by Palestinians and many analysts believe his presence in the government would hurt future peace talks.

The huddling on both sides undermined Arafat's efforts to broker a truce. Arafat wanted a broad international inquiry into the cause of the strife. Barak and U.S. President Bill Clinton, however, favored a smaller summit, chaired by the United States. After meeting with Arafat on Friday, Arafat said he expected a U.S.-led summit to be convened within 48 hours at Sharm el-Sheikh. On Saturday, Arafat dropped his demand for an international inquiry into the fighting and agreed to attend the summit, scheduled to be held on Monday.

The ramming of the USS Cole, one of the world's most advanced warships, in Aden appeared designed to rattle U.S.



Palestinians protest broadcasting Kibbutz in Gaza City, the damaged hull of the USS Cole (below) in escape

resolve to bring peace to the area. The Cole, with a crew of 300, was in port for refueling when the explosion ripped a hole 12 by 12 meters in the side of the 8,600-tonne ship. Two previously unknown terrorist groups, the Islamic Resistance Front and Muhammad's Army later took credit for the blast, while Clinton vowed to find and punish those responsible. And he said the deaths would not deter U.S. peace efforts. "If their mission was to deter us from our mission of promoting peace and security in the Middle East," said Clinton, "they will fail miserably."

Powerful players in the Arab community, however, including Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder and spiritual leader of the Hamas Islamic Resistance, vowed to fight on regardless of whether a ceasefire is reached. "You are living on occupied land that you stole," the wheelchair-bound Muslim cleric said, addressing the people of Israel. "You are living on land whose homes you destroyed and whose sons were killed. You have no future in this region."

To further complicate matters, Arafat is trying to negotiate a prisoner exchange between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas, who abducted three Israeli soldiers from a border post last weekend. If the soldiers are killed, analysts predict, Israel could widen the conflict by once again invading south Lebanon, a region Israel invaded in 1982, and finally remove them in May.

The escalating violence has, meanwhile, undermined the peace movement in Israel. "Even people like me, who have worked for peace in the grassroots, have doubts now about the trustworthiness of their Palestinian friends," said James Arafat, a veteran leader of the Peace Now movement. "Everyone has been shocked by the repercussions of the attack on both sides." She

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## Even moderates on both sides are now deeply pessimistic

remains convinced, though, that Israelis and Palestinians will have to ensure the peace negotiations eventually. But even peace campaigners acknowledge that their dream of a new Middle East is slipping away. Amidst, an American-born sociologist, suggests that politicians would have to "apologize these two people as much as possible, to place them on an equal footing and hope that we will transcend the hostility."

But transcending hostility seems almost impossible in a settlement like Shilo, in the Palestinian-controlled area between Ramallah and Nablus. It is also home to Israeli settlers like Shmuel Katz, a black-bearded teacher in his 40s who has lived in Shilo with his wife and children for 10 years. "It's very hard," he said following a funeral for Rabbi Halel



An Israeli suicide bomber enters a police station in Ramallah, shortly

Lieberman, a 37-year-old, New York City-born rabbi whose bullet-riddled body was found last week in a cave near Nablus. "We've been stoned. We're being shot at all the time. We don't know how much longer we can stand such a situation." Did that mean he was preparing to pull out? "Never," he vowed. "Only our dead bodies will leave this place. That is our country, this is our home." ■



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## Yugoslav links renewed

The United States is lifting economic sanctions against Yugoslavia and re-establishing diplomatic ties with the country, which were severed last year during NATO's 11-week bombing campaign over Kosovo. The U.S. decision followed similar moves by the European Union, and is expected to bolster the government of newly elected Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostanica, which is struggling to form a new government in the face of stiff opposition from president Slobodan Milosevic's outgoing regime.

## Chapman tapes admit killing

In tapes released by the New York state parole board, Mark David Chapman, who strangled John Lennon in 1980, said "everybody" drove him to kill. "I felt like nothing," said Chapman, who was denied parole earlier this month. "I felt if I shot him I would become something. I wish I was a big nobody again."

## Former Indian PM jailed

India's former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, 79, was given a three-year prison sentence and fined \$5,200 for bribing opposition members of Parliament to vote for his government in a 1993 no-confidence measure. Rao held office from 1991 to 1996.

## Guerrillas seize hostages

Guerrillas from Colombia's Revolutionary Armed Forces kidnapped 10 foreign oil workers in the Amazon region of Ecuador. The hostage-taking was retaliation for "Plan Colombia," a multi-billion-dollar anti-drug campaign. Largely financed by the United States, the program is aimed at eradicating the guerrillas and the vast cocaine-smuggling operations they control.

## More polar flights sought

A joint mission study by Canada and Russia concluded that millions of dollars could be saved if more commercial airline flights passed over the North Pole. The flights, which were not allowed during the Cold War, could shave two hours off the 15½ hours it now takes to fly from Toronto to Delhi.

## World Notes



Bush (left) and Gore debating, stopping short of calling the vice president a liar

## Deadlocked in the presidential race

Civility, not confrontation, marked the second presidential debate between Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice-President Al Gore. The encounter at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., was steeped in a conventional setting with both candidates sitting at a table—a format pushed by Republican strategists who believe it puts their candidate at ease. The debate centered largely on foreign affairs, with both men agreeing on most issues—including U.S. policy in the still-torn Middle East. It was only when the discussion touched on domestic issues, particularly health care and gun control, that the debate heated up. At one point, Bush repeated Gore's argument for tighter gun controls, saying in reference to the death

penalty that Texans have the "ultimate penalty" for those who use guns to kill. In another exchange, Bush stopped just short of calling Gore a liar, but did suggest that the vice-president is prone to exaggeration. Gore, who was accused of being too aggressive in the first debate, calmly apologized for any misrepresentations.

In the end, neither candidate scored a clear victory. "Bush probably did enough to pass the test on foreign affairs," said David Birdsell, a political analyst at Burch College in New York City. "While Gore proved he could stay cool." Some polls conducted following the debate suggested Bush gained a slight advantage over Gore, with 45 per cent of decided voters, compared with 42 per cent for Gore.

## Estrada under fire

Joseph Estrada, a former hard-drinking movie actor whose 34-month presidency of the Philippines has been marked by repeated scandal, faced a growing political crisis when his popular vice-president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, resigned from cabinet. Arroyo stepped down after the archbishop of Manila, Jaime Cardinal Sin, and a council of 75 Roman Catholic priests called for Estrada's resignation

amid allegations that he took \$15 million in bribes from the underworld operators of an illegal lottery game known as *pusang*, in which gamblers win by correctly guessing two numbers from 1 to 37. The accusations, which Estrada denies, came amid growing corruption in the country. The unemployment rate has soared to a one-year high of 11 per cent, and militant Muslim separatists continue to harass government troops in the southern Philippines.

Bay Street debates the sensitive question of disclosure: did Air Canada hold back?

# The Investor's Right to Know

By Katherine Mecklen

As Ben Cherniavsky was rising the end of his 15th cover story on the afternoon of Thursday, Oct. 5, he received a phone call from an Air Canada official in Montreal. The official didn't want to talk in person, he insisted Cherniavsky, an investment analyst, forward the call to his voice mail. Cherniavsky did, and then he learned the message.

That same evening, curtain time, Air Canada made more calls and delivered more scripted messages to other analysts who follow the airline, each time using voice mail. By various accounts, the message discussed Air Canada's financial situation. In the morning, when the markets opened, Air Canada's share price had fallen overnight by \$1. During the course of trading on Friday, it dropped another



Monty, raising eyebrows with remarks about Telelobe

75 cents—but to most investors, it wasn't clear why. At 5:57 that afternoon, an Air Canada news release hit the wires, explaining "disappointment" at the tumbling share price, which the airline blamed on information it said had previously been made public.

About the same time, the investment community began to level accusations of breaching a securities law duly referred to as selective disclosure. Shareholders large and small, the critics charged, lost money because they weren't privy to the nose-mail briefing. "This is a black stain on the concept of market integrity," says William Reed, president of Fairview Securities Corp., a firm that specializes in corporate governance issues. Selective disclosure is illegal. The law says a company can't give material information—crucial news that is likely to affect the stock price—only to some investors. The principle is simple: if you tell one investor, you have to tell them all. The concern is that people who have privileged information can act on it—either to get an early start on a rising stock price or to get out

quickly and avoid a fall. In an era when information—and misinformation—travels in a flash, and when more Canadians than ever are investors, it is critical to ensure everyone knows what's going on. But while the concept is straightforward, its execution is not. Securities regulators in Ontario are investigating at least five cases of possible selective disclosure, but charges have never been laid in Canada.

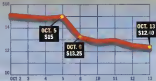
On the same Friday that Air Canada's stock was tumbling, senior executives of Telelobe Inc., a specialty leased long-distance phone carrier under the wing of BCE Inc., held a series of hour-long meetings in Washington with 10 analysts. Again, following the meetings, the question of selective disclosure was raised in the media. But BCE officials insist the analysts received no material information, and the stock price did not show any sharp swing.

Last June, BCE chairman and CEO Jean-Marc Monty raised controversy when he let slip in a meeting with analysts in New York City that BCE was negotiating its purchase of Telelobe. The next day, citing "inadvertent" comments by Monty, the company issued a press release about the new talks.

While disclosure of material information by publicly traded companies has always been a concern, it has become much more acute in recent years. One reason, says Frank Switzer, spokesman for the Ontario Securities Commission, is the explosion in the number of people investing in the stock market. Another is the Internet and other technological advances that allow information to move widely and quickly. These changes have prompted securities regulators to take a harder look at the issue. "Ten years ago, companies met only with analysts, and 'that probably was full disclosure,'" Switzer says. But the world has changed. "Nowadays," he says, "I would suggest that releasing material information to an analyst without releasing it more broadly is a no-no."

## FLYING LOW

Air Canada's stock suddenly rose closed on Friday, Oct. 5, after the company made a series of phone calls to analysts on Thursday night.



Jean-Claude Bouchard, a Montreal business lawyer and a member of the board of the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec—Canada's largest pension-fund manager—has been thinking about the issue of selective disclosure for many years. Among the questions an executive should ask are: Is the information material? If yes, is it new? Will it affect the share price? Is it being broadly disseminated? "It's basically a question of common sense," Bouchard says. "If you're a major player, you're going to have to be more careful in this day and age about what you say or don't say."

Meetings are commonplace between company executives and investment analysts—essentially, highly paid specialists for clients of the brokerage or funds that employ them. "Analysts have an important role in synthesizing the information in a way Joe Public can understand," Bouchard says. Some executives may be tempted to stop meeting the analysts, to avoid even the appearance of selective disclosure, he fears. "But maybe that would be a greater disservice to the investing public," Bouchard says.

John Grady is a Toronto-based analyst who covers BCE and Telelobe. He was among those left out of the meetings in Washington, yet he'd downgraded the company 15 days when companies hold analysts' meetings and conferences, they should also provide simultaneous disclosure to the general investing public over the Internet. "We've got this amazing technology," he says. "We should use it." Grady says he doesn't think Telelobe released material information and

he is not accusing it of selective disclosure. The company itself says it provides full disclosure. Meanwhile, BCE's vice-president of investor relations, says conference calls to discuss quarterly results are Web-cast and archived on the Web.

Air Canada's executives, too, insist no new information was released in their voice-mail messages on that Thursday night before the Thanksgiving weekend. In its news release the following day, the company acknowledged its share price had been in recent since August. In merger with Canadian Airlines, merged costs and operational problems at United Airlines, an Air Canada partner, had been previously discussed, the airline said, and would contribute to a one-time reduction in its quarterly results. Analysts have speculated that the company was trying to lower expectations and engineer a soft landing for the declining stock.

The securities commission is taking a look at the Air Canada calls. While the OSC's Switzer declined to speak directly about the Air Canada case, an official with the airline said the regulator has asked for certain documents. The papers, which she would not identify, will be sent on, she added.

Fairview's Reed warns the Ontario regulator to go after Air Canada. The OSC, he says, is "being given a great opportunity to make an example of this—it's such a great message." Whenever the regulator decides to do, the episode demonstrates just how critical the free—and instant—flow of information is to a market that so many Canadians have joined.

With Patricia Chisholm in Toronto



Deirdre McMurdy

## Being kind to Air Canada

**You've got to feel kind of sorry for federal Transport Minister David Collette.** On the one hand, he's the guy responsible for giving the nod to the controversial and disruptive merger between Air Canada and Canadian Airlines. On the other hand, as a regular commuter between Ottawa and Toronto, he has to live with the consequences of his action every week. "Flying Air Canada in the last six months, we haven't been on time more than twice," he admits. "I've had my bag lost." And what happens when airline staffers find out they're dealing with the minister in charge of their company's future? "They say they're upset and they cry crocodile tears," he grumbles. "They've got a long way to go yet."

Despite his personal frustrations, mounting public pressure and his admission that the merger process has been fraught with unforeseen complications, Collette remains unwavering in his commitment to the deal and to the policy of deregulation that underpins it. "While he concedes that many of the problems Air Canada encounters encountered during the peak summer travel season were "due to their own errors in judgment," he notes that they can't be held accountable for delays caused by bad weather or soaring consumer demand. "No one predicted the number of people in North America who would be travelling by plane. It caught all the airlines flat-footed."

The minister also says he's sympathetic to western Canadian and Canadian Airlines employees who are bitter over Air Canada's broken promise to preserve a distinct brand for Canadian and to maintain a separate headquarters in Calgary. "Air Canada made that public commitment and they'll have some explaining to do with a certain constancy," he says. However, Collette insists that such onerous business decisions were not of great importance for the government. "As far as we're concerned, when we did a deal with Air Canada last December, keeping a separate brand was not a priority for us," he explains. "We wanted to make sure the employees were looked after, we wanted to assure customers was looked after, prior gouging was dealt with, and that there was competition—all these big issues."

He also observes that the disruptive air travellers have experienced to date because of the merger "pales in comparison to what could have happened if Canadian had suffered a bankruptcy." According to Collette, at the time the merger was finally concluded, the Calgary-based airline had two days' cash left, it couldn't meet its payroll, and "we would have had 16,000 people out on the street at Christmas."

The public focus on Air Canada horror stories has also obscured a development in which Collette clearly takes great pride: the increased number of small competitors in the

market. Although Halifax-based CarJet last week won a temporary cease-and-desist order against Air Canada from the Competition Bureau over alleged predatory pricing on CarJet routes, the minister remains optimistic about the new entrants and the enhanced role they are playing in key domestic markets, as well as on shorter regional routes. "Most people don't hear a lot about Peace Air or Air Labrador, but these are just some of the services for smaller communities, which are expanding their service," he says. "They're filling the vacuum left as Air Canada has cut its domestic capacity."

As for the option of allowing U.S. or other foreign carriers into the Canadian market to increase competition, Collette is convinced it won't fly. He points out that if American carriers enter Canada, they'll drain the cream from the business routes, punishing Air Canada and destroying the new fleet of upstart airlines. "It's like all the old arguments about privatizing the post office," he says. "Everyone wants to deliver parcels between the big cities, to guess which delivering letters to lagged? Her Majesty, paid for by the taxpayer."

Now that Air Canada has formally set the dates—Oct. 21 to 23—for the integration of its reservation system with Canadian's, Collette says he's hopeful that the worst of the transitional phase may be coming to an end. "We always said it would take 18 months to two years to do this—and it's almost been 12 months now," he says. Still, he is keeping a very close eye on the clock and on Air Canada CEO Robert Milson's August pledge to have things in order within 180 days. "I said to them, it better be a little 180 days, not a rolling 180 days," says Collette. "They have to get their act together by Christmas. Canadians just won't put up again with the inconvenience they endured over the summer." And, he adds, increased competition should help keep Air Canada "on its toes."

**One reason for optimism,** he says, is the new union agreements that allow Air Canada and Canadian staff to be used interchangeably. The resolution of the Air Canada pilot's contract dispute has also improved stability. How close was a strike in September? "Let's just say Ottawa sent some warning signals about what might happen [in the event of a strike], and everybody got the message," Collette states.

And will the future of Canada's airline sector become an election issue? Collette doesn't think so. "Any election will be fought on fundamental philosophical differences, especially between the Liberal party and the Alliance," he says. "Despite a lost bag or two, I think Canadians realize this merger has been a big endowment." Magnanimous words from one of its frequent victims.



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## Euro-yes to Seagram, AOL.

The European Commission approved two key mergers that will change the global media landscape. It cleared the way for Paris-based Vivendi SA to take over Montreal-based Seagram Co. Ltd., which will marry Vivendi's entertainment properties with Seagram's Universal movie and music enterprises under the name Vivendi Universal. Seagram's fabled liquor division is expected to be sold. The Europeans also permitted Incentiv Group, America Online Inc. to join with media and entertainment giant Time Warner Inc. after Time Warner pulled off a separate link-up with British-based music firm EMI Group. AOL and Time Warner must still gain approval from U.S. antitrust authorities.

## Imax goes off-screen

Imax Corp., the Toronto-based company that produces giant-screen movie screens, said it was no longer for sale after its stock price plummeted. Its shares, worth \$40 in early September, fell \$15.25 to \$6.55 on Oct. 12 after the company warned of a quarterly loss. The stock recovered somewhat to close the week at \$8.05. Imax pointed to financial troubles in the U.S. theatre industry and high development costs for its digital technology.

## U.S.-Canada smog deal

Canada and the United States agreed to cut emissions causing air pollution that drifts across the border. Under the deal, which primarily benefits Ontario, Quebec and nearby U.S. states, fossil fuel power plants in southern Ontario would cut nitrogen oxide emissions by 50 per cent, while U.S. plants and industries would reduce theirs by 70 per cent, beginning in 2004. Both countries must still ratify the pact.

## Nevada Bob in the rough

Calgary-based golf retailer Nevada Bob's Golf Inc. said it would turn to some bank and franchises to help pay off a \$45-million debt. Founded by Las Vegas-based Bob Elton in 1974 as a series of franchises, the stores were bought up by Calgary investors in 1996-1999. The company earlier sold a 50th per cent ownership rights for \$6 million

## Business Notes

## Mayhem in the markets

**Be ready for another wild ride.** That is the message from global markets rattled by the conflict in the Middle East and the long parade of profit warnings by major U.S. companies. The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index has fallen by about 25 per cent since early September, and last week slipped to a low for the year of 3,004 before rallying on Friday to close at 3,316. Only last March, it had peaked at 5,048. In recent weeks, high-tech leaders such as Intel, Dell, Apple, Motorola and Lucent Technologies have all posted warnings that their quarterly results will be lower than expected.

Nor is it only tech. Home Depot Inc. also issued an earnings warning last week, and the blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average came down



Oil traders in New York, snapping prices

with a thud, ending the week at 10,192. On top of that came the surge in oil prices due to fears of fallout from Iraq's bloody conflict with the Palestinians. The Toronto Stock Exchange 300 composite index also took a hit before recovering by nearly three per cent in the Friday rebound.

## Molson: We are Canadian

**It's no longer Miller Time** in the United States for Molson Inc. The Montreal-based brewer said it will spend \$200 million to buy back the U.S. rights to its brands, including Molson Canadian, Ice and Golden, because rapacious owner Miller Brewing Co. did not put enough firm in their marketing. "We were seriously degraded as a brand," said Molson CEO Daniel O'Neill. Molson's U.S. sales have fallen by 35 per cent since the rights were sold in 1993, despite high growth for other imported beers. Molson is now looking for a new partner.

## Financial Outlook

**Buying a new dream house** is getting more costly, especially in Ontario. The August new housing price index is up 2.4 per cent since the year before. The index measures the changes in contractors' selling prices for new residential houses. The house component of the index rose 3.2 per cent while land costs are up just under one per cent. The National Capital Region experienced the largest annual jump, with the index climbing 7.2 per cent there. The key reason, according to Statistics Canada, is strong demand

due to the creation of thousands of high-tech jobs in Ottawa. Elsewhere, rising prices often reflected increased costs of building materials, land and labour being passed on to consumers by contractors.

### NEW HOMES AHEAD

August new housing price index, seasonally adjusted			
	Change	Index	Change
All cities	+4.6%	100.0	+4.6
Ottawa	+5.1%	100.0	+5.1
Calgary	+2.3%	100.0	+2.3
Regina	+2.2%	100.0	+2.2
Montreal	+2.8%	100.0	+2.8
Toronto	+2.5%	100.0	+2.5
Quebec	+2.2%	100.0	+2.2

# A revolution at the library

In a world where music, movies and mail have all been digitized, it should come as no surprise that Canadian libraries have started to lend electronic versions of their books. The public library in Richmond, B.C., and libraries in Windsor, Ont., Ottawa,



Digital book: Is Gutenberg type of change?

Toronto, and the Toronto suburbs of Richmond Hill and Vaughan all have e-book programs in various stages of development. And while computer-phones will undoubtedly creep at the thought of liquid crystal displays replacing well-thumbed spines, the fact remains digital books bear at least some advantages over ink and paper. The impact of e-books is expected to be so profound, says Jeanne Lombardo, collection co-ordinator for electronic materials at the Toronto Public Library, that they will see day-nite with the invention of the printing press. "This," says Lombardo, "represents a Gutenberg type of change in our reading habits."

To assure those habits, the Toronto Library is conducting a six-month pilot project in which 24 tablet-like Bucker eBook readers are on loan at six branches. The Bucker eBook, made by NovaMedia Inc. of Mountain View, Calif., is a bit bigger than a paperback, weighs about as much as an average hard-cover and stores about 10 novels. It is powered by rechargeable batteries. On its touch-sensitive screen, users can move icons in the margin with a stylus or even a finger, underline passages, search for words and bookmark pages. In the Toronto trial, each electronic reader is loaded with a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction, and loaned out for three

weeks. The initial response has been good, says Lombardo, with more than 200 people on waiting lists. "One or two people have said, 'I was really prepared to burn this,'" says Lombardo, "but they found they were quite pleasant to use."

## Cool Sites

### Planet's pulse

3Com Corp. of Santa Clara, Calif., plans to take a comprehensive poll of, yes, the entire world between Nov. 15 and 18. The Web-based survey, billed as "the world's largest interactive poll," will be offered in eight languages, and divided into categories ranging from religion and health to sex and justice. To bridge the digital divide, 3Com employs equipped with portable computers will fan out across the globe to query the underprivileged and non-computerized. The site can be found at [www.planetproject.ca](http://www.planetproject.ca).

Danilo Hrovatichka

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- Check ignition circuitry and battery strength.
- Upgrade your windshield washer fluid to winter strength.
- Ensure your windshield washer fluid is winter grade. Don't get caught out in the cold with the pink stuff.
- Check tire pressures for proper rated inflation.
- Lubricate door and trunk hinges, latches, locks and handles (use manufacturer's recommended lubricants).
- Keep in your car: ice scraper, battery jumper cables, flashlight, hat, mitts and boots and small gas container, lock de-icer, roadside assistance telephone number.

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People Edited by Shanda Drexel

## Old songs, new singer

Sometimes the best way to move forward is to look back. For across-turned-singer **Thomas Tava**, that meant modernizing Yiddish folk and vaudeville tunes on her first album, *Tilting Stars*. The result is a jazz, sometimes melancholy musical journey through her Jewish heritage that will surprise listeners of all backgrounds. "A major musicologist in the Yiddish world came to hear me sing, and he said to the women who brought him, 'Does she know it's not supposed to be done like this?' Afterward, he took me out for drinks because he thought I was doing some interesting stuff."

With *Tilting Stars*, Tava wanted to reclaim her history and bring it to a wider audience. "I'm not a teacher, though I understand that I am teaching people by showing them a way into my culture," she says. "Being the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I grew up with a big black hole in my heritage."



*Her mothering her past by breaking new ground*

The 45-year-old wife and mother of two played the spunky editor on the early-'90s television series *E.N.G.* She is currently completing a five-month run in *Standoff*, One of two productions—*Survivor* and *Hidden as the Angel*. "When the season ends in November, Tava intends to focus more fully on her singing career. "I've spent my whole life as an actor, pretending to be something I'm not," she says, "and there's such liberation in being a musician and being able to express who I am. There's no written dialogue of what I should say." Spoiler alert: a true jazz singer.

## Billy Dee? 'Look at me'

**Billy Dee Williams** shows us being typical. "They were looking for a Billy Dee Williams type, so I said, 'Look no further,'" says Williams, 63, who plays Lenny, the bartender in *The Ladies Man*, which stars *Saturday Night Live* comic **Tim Meadows.**

After 28 big-screen films and numerous television shows over his 41-year acting career, the suave Williams remains best known for his role as Lando Calrissian in two of the three *Star Wars* movies. He has also used his smooth style to strike advertising deals promoting such diverse items as men's liquor and women's perfume. "I emerged as this sort of romantic figure on-screen, which had never happened to a guy of my color before," he says. But, Williams confesses, pointing to his three marriages, "I find women really pushing people." Proof that his smooth on-screen persona is the work of a skilled actor.



*Williams no substitute*

## A father lost, loved and longed for

Growing up, Rachel Manley heard anything that came between her and her father, including all five of his wives. She never dreamed that one day she would write a book for them, *Spoken: A Daughter Remembers*. It's Manley's memoir about her father, former *Jeopardy!* prize winner **Michael Manley**, who died of cancer in 1997 at the age of 72. Manley describes her father as

something to hold on to during the storm. "Manley's narrative swings between her father's public and private lives, highlighting her own struggle to reconcile them. The intensity of their father-daughter relationship stems from the disconnection they shared both, says the 53-year-old Manley, were "intensive romances."

Born in England, Manley was whisked off to Jamaica at age 2 after her parents' divorce. There, she was raised by her grandparents, whose stable love contrasted with her ever-changing cast of step-families. "They were all mine," she says of them. Unfortunately, her father never was.



*Manley remembering*

CBC's *Canada: A People's History* arrives amid renewed fixation on the country's past

# Not the Same Old Story

By Brian Bethune

The first moments on-screen belong to Shawnadithit, or Nancy, as the whites called her. On a winter's day in 1823, the 22-year-old Beothuk walked into the Newfoundland outpost of Exploits Bay, starving and bearing the scars of gunshot wounds received on two separate occasions. By the time of her death from tuberculosis a year later, Shawnadithit was the last of her people. A St. John's physician sent her skull to London for study, accompanied by a note that captured the tribute of loss, condescension and superiority the newcomers held

about the people they had driven to extinction by massacre and disease. Shawnadithit, Dr. William Carson wrote, "was tall and majestic, mild and tractable, but characteristically proud and cautious." With that dramatic introduction to the enormously complicated interaction between Europeans and the diverse nations they encountered in the New World, *Canada: A People's History* off to a powerful—and defining—beginning.

A good start is vital for the CBC's millennial history series, the brainchild of legendary producer Mark Stewart, who created *As It Happens* and *The Journal*. There is a lot riding on the belated network's latest, grandest project, which debuts on Oct. 22. A narrative history of Canada derived primarily from the writings of people who lived through it, the series—which will air nine episodes this year and seven in 2002—is the largest production ever mounted by the CBC's documentary arm, and the network's first-ever French-English joint production. Over the past 3½ years, 15 directors, seven camera



Enslaved Ontario Orangemen were Union Jacks and here Louis Riel is effigy following his 1885 execution; Sikhness native near Manitoba's Red River in 1812 (opposite): pioneers

crews, 240 actors and hundreds of researchers—allegations who draw in period costume and stage historical events—have worked on the series' 30 commercial-free hours in each official language. Then there are the state-of-the-art Web site ([www.cbc.ca/history](http://www.cbc.ca/history)), the educational videos and teacher guides, and two substantial companion books of the same name. Published in English by McClelland & Stewart and in French by Les Éditions Fides, they will be launched to coincide with Episode 1. And then there is the cost: \$25 million, low by Hollywood costume-drama standards, but a huge investment for the CBC after a decade of cutbacks.

The scale of the gamble is enough by itself to put the network on edge. Skeanews admits to one recurring anxiety—"a public reaction of 'it's really good that someone finally made a TV history of Canada. I don't plan on watching it.'" But it's the people who are guaranteed to watch—and the passion they will bring to it—who seem certain to turn *A People's History* into a well-earned base of contention. This project, which the network has brewed about for more than 20 years—"the idea is in the fabric of the CBC," says Skeanews—was filmed and comes to air during one of Canadian history's infrequent eruptions into the public spotlight. The decades-old historical war between traditional scholars like Jack Granatstein, author of the 1998 best-seller, *Who Killed Canadian History?*, and academic regional historians has exploded to a new level with the recent arrival of two Toronto-based corporate behemoths.

The Dominion Institute, established in 1997, and the Historical Foundation of Canada, which began operating in January with a \$25-million commitment from the Bechtel family's CRB Foundation, echo the traditionalists' call for renewed emphasis on the nation's political and military history. Social historians, who have been busy working on the previously ignored stories of aboriginals, women, immigrants and the poor, divide traditional history as an upper-class WASP version of events. And the regionalists, who surge from Quebec nationalists to

westerners and Mounties scornful of the central Canadian focus of parochialism, any depiction of, or even hostile to, the very notion of a national history. About the only thing all the experts agree on is that Canadians are notoriously averse to, and profoundly ignorant of, any version of their history. The story of Canada, run the contradictory clichés, is at once boring and too hot to handle.

The dispute among the schools of history has added its own twist to criticism of *A People's History's* belly pain tag. The CBC's \$25-million commitment is a source of grumbling from many staffers outside the history project. And although the money is clearly from the public broadcaster's own budget, Szwarcwaj says, "our people in Montreal had to handle the widespread assumption by their media colleagues that there was some money from Ottawa hidden somewhere," funds directed to making *féderalist* propaganda. Let's remember: so-called Scully affair only hid those rumours. (The Montreal newspaper *Le Devoir* revealed that journalist Robert Scully's interview show on the French-language RDI network was receiving secret funding from the Canada Information Office, the national-unity agency operated by Alfonso Gagliano, the Liberal government's political minister in Quebec.)

Nor has Szwarcwaj yet managed as much sponsorship money as he expected at a time when business leaders like CAE Inc. chairman Lyndon (Bud) Wilson and Michael Phelps of Wisconsin Energy Inc., both members of Hincote's board of directors, have become such vocal history proponents. Only one sponsor has so far signed on—San Life Financial, for \$1.7 million—although negotiations are continuing with two others, unnamed, companies. Szwarcwaj, not a public man at the best of times, tries to restrict himself to a measured summation. "Let's just say corporate Canada cannot be said to have stepped up to the plate in the current atmosphere of business concern about our history. CEOs loved it when we showed it to them, but then their marketing guys or their media buyers would shake their heads. I didn't know



as such nation-forging events as Confederation or Vimy Ridge. But there are hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Canadian citizens—francophone Québécois and aboriginals for the most part—who do not believe there is a single Canadian people to write about. As for an alleged indifference to history, even the filmmakers' most gingerly probes into the past make it abundantly clear that the nation's history matters very much indeed to its inhabitants. From Burnt Church to an ocean province that bears the motto *Je me souviens* (I remember), they quickly realized, Canada's present is made by its past—or, to be exact, by differing, evolving interpretations of it.

If the makers of *A People's History* had learned that lesson already, it would have been brought home by the extraordinary public reaction to the Sept. 28 death of Pierre Trudeau. Canadians refused and rearranged seats from 20 and 30 years ago in an unsettling atmosphere of loss. That feeling of ground shifting is one Szwarcwaj pinpoints as key in propelling history's current resurgence. "For years now, we've been told to lay aside old national symbols like they were the things of a child," he says. "There's a yearning now to think that the milk train stopped here once, that there is some meaning to our history." But it was the reaction to Pierre Monies Jean Chénier's proposal to rename Yukon's Mount Logan, the highest peak in Canada, after Trudeau that may have best illustrated Canadians' feelings about the past. Even in the midst of grief, many objected to erasing one eminent Canadian—pioneering 19th-century geologist Sir William Logan—to make way for another.

Knowing what a minefield they had to navigate, the makers of *A People's History* did carefully burdley Gene Allen, the project director of research, combines 23 years of journalistic experience with a doctorate in Canadian history ("He's the brains of this thing," says Szwarcwaj. "It's just the TV thing.") Allen



## The gift sweater.

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CEOs had as little authority in their own organizations."

Moments later, however, Szwarcwaj is up and pacing about his office. "What the hell," the executive producer exclaims. "We have been asked if we would not make too much of the numbers of Chinese who died making the railway, if we could stress the roles of certain corporations in the making of Canada." The short answer to such questions, Szwarcwaj tells anyone who asks, is that *A People's History* was made by journalists acting under the CBC's official policy guidelines, and has to be "as defensible as anything by the fifth team."

Defensible is certainly the watchword for the series' creators, who came to learn that the divisions among academic historians merely reflect those in society. Various groups may view provincial education ministries to emphasize what they

## Ordinary people at the mercy of historical forces become participants in an epic drama

sons that the big decision—to make the series chronological rather than thematic—was taken long ago, and determined everything that came after. “We’re journalists, TV journalists. We have a logical sequence-of-events bias, a story bias.” When over the heads of the makers, however, it also means that narrative history without any expert commentary was the only way the series could have been made. By locating the differences of opinion in the past, in the words of the original proponents, Allen says, suffers with very different views could work together peacefully, even on such contentious subjects as The Conquest. The eminent scholar Ramsey Cook, one of three historians—the others were Jean Claude Robert and

the results. “They’re gambling on people understanding.” As it best, the technique succeeds brilliantly. That’s the case with the last of the *Battlefields*, *Shenandoah*. Viewers can make of Carson’s commentary on her what they will: an expression of dull intensity or the summation of the tragic life of one woman, or a heartbreaking epitaph for an entire nation. The effect is equally spellbinding when armies march towards one another on the Plains of Abraham. The narration sketches brief biographies of individuals among the displaced Irish and Highlanders on the British side, the dispossessed of urban France who were their king’s cannon fodder, and the French-Canadian militia defending their homes. By focusing on ordinary people at the mercy of great historical forces, the series turns them—and by extension, all Canadians—into participants in an epic drama. And at all times, even when the event is hard to stage for the camera or requires active engagement by the viewer, the visuals are stunning, the result of wide-screen digital cameras and advanced digital graphics.

What makes the series work as a spectacle, what made it possible at all, is a combination of high-tech digital compositing and low-tech re-enactment. More than 20 such groups took part in the early episodes acting out battles and other scenes from the centuries before photography (page 58). Then the CBC corporations took over. In “the biggest thing-to-over-come through this department,” in the words of Stephen Daucheshen, the English-language graphics project leader, compositors built appropriate settings around the 19 to 20 historical characters who addressed the camera in each of the 16 episodes, expanded tiny model boats into great armadas, and made cannonballs fly out of guns that no longer work.

For the CBC series makers, it was crucial to get Episode 4, *Battle for a Governor*, absolutely right. Not only was it a challenge for French and English networks co-operation, it required a large-scale re-enactment of the vicious combat at the Plains of Abraham, and visuals that included a French attack on the British fleet with 80 fire boats and the massive bombardment of Quebec City. To show how navigated the city by British cannon fire, Daucheshen needed a Second World War photo of London after a Nazi air raid with a shot of the Quebec capitol’s skyline, itself already distorted to remove modernism buildings. For the dramatic battle itself—actually shot in North Gower, Ont., near Ottawa, in a farmer’s field that looks a lot more like the Plains did in 1759 than the Plains do now—the CBC filmed 98 re-enactments, playing one army at a time. Through digital replication Daucheshen’s department seamlessly turned them into 9,000 soldiers from both sides.

The television achievement is undeniable, and in terms of telling the series—reliving the experience—of individual Canadians, unparalleled. “When the great debate over the recent history, the series is a new player, with a new vision to offer.” The really interesting question in *And People History* is who is “we,” says *Shenandoah*. “We face the Loyalties game, we were the French-Canadians. After that, the ‘we’ changed and keeps changing.” And now we can see ourselves as never before. ■



Red River settlers: the series avoids telling viewers what to think

Oliver Dickason—who wrote scripts for factual accuracy, was impressed. “It’s a wonderful thing that the French and English managed to work together on this without anyone being killed.”

The approach will lift the series with one vulnerable drawback. “Not everyone will be pleased with our choices of what to include or exclude,” Allen acknowledges. (Was of 1812 hero the *Lionel Lincoln*, for instance, didn’t make the cut.) “But the only answer I don’t want to find myself in is one where somebody says, ‘Why not that?’ and not having heard of it.” That means Allen concedes, that “we were always using different and products to go broad, go broad,” at a time when they were increasingly trying to narrow down and find the story. “No, no,” we said, “go on idea of the forest before you pick a tree.” In deliberately avoiding telling viewers what to think, the film-makers were asking for an extraordinary degree of focus and attention. “The whole thing is a gamble,” agrees Cook, who pronounces himself pleased with

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### Special Report Television

## 'The Keepers of Our History'

Canada's numerous historical re-enactment groups were a crucial component in the making of *Canada: A People's History*. Organizations from the Queen's Cowboys of Manitoba—who portray Mounties of the 1880s—to the Société de reconstitution historique du Québec, re-fought dozens of battles for the camera. Their significance to the series went well beyond bringing colour, or even expertise, to the screen, as they helped ensure accuracy in weaponry and costume. Even their enthusiasm and good will that executive producer Mark Sawmice remembers—like the Québécois who laughed as he put on a British uniform, "If Geste-Grand-Grand could see me now!"

"If I came out of this with respect for any one group, it's the re-enactors," Sawmice says. "TV can be so boring to you or them hour after hour, make after make, and it's not like we had much to offer. The deal at the Plains of Abraham was 'get yourself there with your own time and we'll feed you.' These people are the keepers of our history."

In fact, in many ways they are Canada's history. On an unseasonably warm April weekend, 18 Métis members from the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and a similar number of Métis gathered at CFB Shilo in southwestern Manitoba to re-enact the Battle of Batoche, the decisive conclusion to Louis Riel's armed uprising of 1885. The RWR, then known as the 90th Winnipeg Rifles, were present at the real Batoche. And so were many of the ancestors of Métis re-enactors such as Ken Lafert. The 55-year-old retired grain-elevator worker from Turtle Mountain, Man., took part in re-creating a contemporary photograph that showed his great-grandfather Daniel Rea lying dead after the battle.

The two groups interacted easily, al-

though Dean Conway, 56, who played Riel, unsuccessfully tried to get a rise out of the actors by swearing to reverse history and "kick their butts this time." The militia members, who ranged in age from 19 to 78 and were busy harassing the CBC crew with calls of "Where's my love interest?" and "Who gets to play officer?" joined Conway's fellow Métis in laughter. Not that the soldiers didn't pay close attention to what was wanted of them. When director Bill Cobban called for a

### Many Métis re-enactors had ancestors at Batoche



RWR militia before the battle, re-enactment

moment, Sgt. Sean Hennessy asked: "You want us to skirmish properly—half retreat, half lay covering fire?" "If that's how it was done," Cobban replied, "yes."

The Métis enjoyed themselves, too, even those with close personal connections to Batoche. As a key scene set in a thicket unfolded—in real life the place his great-grandfather Dennis Carlier died—Phil Boudreau, 58, was laughing over an on-camera offer: "Cher, it's no wonder we lost." For Métis activist Steve Racine, it was the "educational opportunity, for us and for the rest of society" that prompted him to find Métis volunteers for the shoot. "We can show everyone what we're really like, what really happened."

Brian Behrman at CFB Shilo

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# Man of History

By Robert Sheppard

**He arrived in Canada largely by accident,** a young Polish boy of 7 tossed about by the backwash of the Second World War, unable to speak either English or French. School was an ordeal until he found his voice in the 1960s as a student firebrand at Montreal's McGill University, the Anglo editor of the *McGill Daily* student newspaper advocating

a "McGill *fisque*." "He went on to become arguably English Canada's most influential broadcast journalist, a hard-news junkie putting his mark on the big events of the day and, almost as important, on the news culture of the CBC. His last big documentary in 1996, *The Dawn of the Eye*, explored his own milieu and how the TV camera can lie. Now, Mark Starowicz is about to unleash his most ambitious television project, the \$25-million *Canada: A People's History*. Filled with passion, intrigue and inclusion, it is a story much like his own.

A compact, dapper man of 54—the ever-present cigarette held, Russian field marshal-style, between thumb and forefinger—Starowicz swims through the editing suites at the CBC like an imperious father. The first installment of the

series for this one project only. "There is irony in this, and maybe a little guilt. Here he is sitting on the bigger single budget item in CBC documentary history and all he can feel is the dashed dreams," he says "of what the CBC might have been." He would know. He is, after all, something of a living legend at "The Corp." Still in his 20s, he transformed radio's *At It Happens* into a stirring gaze on the world, launching the late Barbara Frum into the dinner-hour consciousness of millions of Canadians. He followed that up in 1976 with *Sunday Morning*, the radio show that spawned a generation of documentary journalists. After that came the Starowicz assault on television, moving the CBC evening newscast to prime time at 10 o'clock and following it with *The Journal*.

Flashy, expensive, determined, *The Journal* was one of the most watched current-affairs programs of its day. When it was shut down and replaced in 1992 for reasons that are still hotly debated, Starowicz was unconcerningly thrust aside. "Not one of the CBC brass came to our farewell party," he notes. He recalls writing in his office on the day after the final broadcast and hearing the chipper crackle on the wires behind the CBC building grinding the *Journal* into tiny bits.

After *The Journal*'s demise, Starowicz drifted. Then came the dual crisis of the 1995 Quebec Referendum, and both he and the country were given another mill of the dice. Starowicz says he wants to leave a true record of Canada's history for his two teenage daughters and their generation in an idiom they can understand—television. But there may be another rationale at work—redemption. "Mark needs this project," one of his former senior producers says. "He needs to show he can still move with the times." And it is possible, too, that



The producer re-enacting the Plains of Abraham, long

Canadian history needs his passion, his intensity. The stories about Starowicz are legend. He has an unfathomably deep belief in public broadcasting, public initiatives. *The Sunday Morning* crew was famous for working Friday night straight through to Sunday morning to get their documentaries to air. "Nothing," says Starowicz, "beats small teams of people—one piece of equipment—trying to do their best. Regimental pride is what makes documentaries special and this," he says—pointing to *A People's History*, a grand historical epic— "is the last great production of the old school."

Regimental pride runs deep in the Starowicz clan. His father was a Polish bomber pilot who flew 55 Royal Air Force missions over Germany. His mother was a partisan in the Warsaw uprising who was imprisoned by the Nazis. They met when he helped liberate her from a prisoner-of-war camp at the end of the fighting and were married three weeks later. Mark, their only child, was born in England but spent the first seven years of his life in Buenos Aires—in tacit Argentina—until his father's fledgling truck business failed and they were forced to take a tramp steamer to New York City on the way to Montreal, where a relative was willing to help down start new Starowicz really feeling out of place in Montreal, always out of step with the culture of the playground. That feeling changed only when the Jewish teachers at Loyola

High School sparked his curiosity about the world and the drink-soaked wench at the Montreal Gazette took him in to an 18-year-old copy boy.

Starowicz was part of the prime invasion of CBC Radio in the early 1970s. He says he didn't trust radio at the time, just as he didn't trust television as a news medium 10 years later when he moved on to create *The Journal*. But Ivor Henderdorf, a then-CBC executive who now heads the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, called him. "Are you really going to turn down the Normandy invasion of Canadian television?" The challenge became almost a personal credo, the gusto for the in-the-trenches attitude that animates *A People's History*.

As it happens, Starowicz's father was in the first wave of the Normandy invasion in June 1944. He flew a collapsible glider that was designed to deposit Allied equipment behind the lines. He told his son later that all he could recall was the glow of the tulle of the plane ahead of him, looking like a giant green spider weaving its way across the English Channel. Starowicz is now waiting for his own big green spider to move out, to dispense the hopes and dreams of the baby boom generation of CBC journalists who have mastered their craft and the intrigue and infighting of their times, and have now only one last act of emergency: how to penetrate—the murky, often-unsettling story of their own country's history. ■

## Canada's saga is the project of Mark Starowicz's illustrious career

30-hour series is to air on Oct. 22, but only now are some of the key scenes being given their last dash of digital polish. Starowicz has hired some of the most accomplished directors and technicians the CBC has ever developed. But he can't stop himself smiling. The sound of marching being fired to aarrison of 1812 soldiers "is so 20th century," Starowicz observes quickly. He knows the sound of jackboots.

Five years in the making, *A People's History* is a story the CBC has long wanted to produce. But the subsidy may be that of the CBC itself, living on borrowed time. In editing *at* an after editing *at*, Starowicz introduces one top technician after another and walks through their personal starter last off last year or the year before and brought back on con-





Films

## Seductive Views from the Vortex

By Brian D. Johnson

If you want to get the audience to sit up and take notice, it never hurts to open with a riling fish. Our narrator is a guarded baker on a chopping block, an ancient creature with the voice of a Pinnock-skated chauntant. Gazing his final breaths, he offers "to tell you a story, a very nice story." OK. Now what? Cut to a reflection in the blue eye of a beautiful woman who is undergoing an abortion. Stagnant images fly by to the incongruously merry sound of *Good Morning Starshine* in something so delectable as a life—a crimson word—then briefly smiled in a Bugge, dropped into a cardboard box and fed to the flames of a big blue incinerator. So begins *Blackfish*, a light-dark fable of love and death, which simply lives up to its title. The bravura opening acts in motion is whirlpools of coincidence, accident and archery—motion picture as Jungian Juggler.

*Maelström* is one of three new movies by young Montreal directors making their second features—along with *The Thousand and One* and *Snow-Jobs*—and they are all moral fables that look for lightness on the dark side of the human

*Cross: that like one of those Godard women, beautifully damaged*

condition. But *Maelström* is by far the most accomplished. Enriched with astonishing flair by Denis Villeneuve, and powered by a charismatic performance from Marie-Josée Croze, this is an film that is more bracing than most, surfing themes of guilt and despair without getting dragged down by the underflow. It's the Canadian movie of the year.

Like *August 32nd on Earth*, Villeneuve's 1998 feature debut, *Maelström* is about an irrational beauty in her mid-30s whose world is turned upside down by a freaky car crash and a subsequent case, instead of doing living her life, she takes someone else's.

Our heroine is Bibiane Krüger, a chic Montreal woman who runs a chain of high-end fashion stores. Depressed after her abortion, she gets drunk, drives home in the rain and flirts with a Norwegian fishmonger with her BMW. The hot-and-cold vision suggests to his feet and crawls home to die at his kitchen table. As Bibiane learns of his death, her world seems to unravel, until she cannot resist tracking down the fishmonger's son (Jean-Noël Verreault). He's a diver named Ewan, and he is just the talk drink of water she needs. We see him emerge from the depths beneath a dark fish operation as a concrete curve before he's helicoptered home for the funeral. Introducing herself as a neighbour of the deceased, Bibiane lets herself be seduced, still unraveling with the secret that she has killed his father.

The movie moves its symbolism on its sleeve. In Villeneuve's primary compositions, the colour blue is ubiquitous, part to white dominated *August 32nd on Earth*, which adopted the desert as its metaphor, the abnormally white Utah salt flat. *Maelström*'s metaphor is water—dark water spilling with dead fish, shower water that washes away the guile, the suicide water of a harbour at night as Bibiane tries to drown herself with her car.

Her anguish unravels as a film of erotic torture. And Villeneuve does Cross like one of those Godard women—beautifully damaged, with dark hair always falling across her face. Or like Juliette Binoche in *Rosetta* or Ksenia



The superior advantages possessed by Lorne Park as a summer resort are year by year becoming more generally known and appreciated. It is most conveniently situated on the north shore of Lake Ontario, about 14 miles westward of Toronto and may be reached by railway, steamboat or carriage. While generally adapted for those whose business in the city demands their daily attention, its beautiful and picturesque surroundings render it a most desirable resort for all who may wish to enjoy a peaceful and charming summer home. From *A History of Lorne Park - 1886*

Lorne Park has always been a place unto itself. In the winter of 1876, a Toronto real estate dealer by the name of Newton McCaswell had put together a group of nine investors to purchase a tract of land just west of Toronto. They named it Lorne Park after the Marquis of Lorne who was Governor General of Canada from 1878 to 1883.

Advertising Supplement



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When Canada was, for that matter, all of North America was settled, wildlife existed in vast numbers — a seemingly inexhaustible supply of food and animal related products. The commercial harvest was unregulated and, at the same time, huge tracts of forest were cleared for lumber and to make way for towns, agriculture and industry. It seemed almost inevitable that an endless supply of wildlife suddenly became very, very limited.

The loss of wildlife and wildlife habitat deeply affected the men and women most involved in our outdoors and, locally, hunters and anglers were the first to band together to form the first conservation groups.

From humble beginnings, the conservation movement has grown and achieved some remarkable results. Governments were led to create laws protecting wildlife. Millions of hectares of wildlife habitat have been designated and protected. Countless hours of volunteer effort and donations have led to invaluable research and understanding of wildlife species. Species, such as the elk and wild turkey, are being restored to their native ranges.

Consider the giant Canada goose, a waterfowl that, in 1964, was considered extinct. Few, a small remnant population, they were brought back from the brink by hunters and hunting groups. Waterfowl habitat was protected, laws were changed, and breeding and re-introduction programs implemented. Today, Canada geese are a common sight throughout all of their historic range and, in some cases, in numbers exceeding pre-war levels.

The wild turkeys, once completely wiped out in Ontario, were reintroduced by commercial dealers for their feathers. But, once again, thanks to hunters and their efforts, this is now one of the most common birds.

Moose were once so rare that hunting them was generally banned from 1880. Now, thanks to hunters over 120,000 in Ontario, moose are again a familiar part of our natural landscape. Elk, were also gone from Ontario at the turn of the century but, since 1973, hunters have been working hard to re-establish their beautiful animals here.

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*Blue*, in fact, is a colour-coded tale of a car accident that sends a woman spinning into a circumstantial frenzy. *Madeline* is highly reminiscent of *Blue* and *Red* from Kurosawa's *Three Colors* trilogy. "I adore Kurosawa," Villeneuve acknowledges, "and although I wasn't thinking of him, I'm sure there's some influence. My film is full of accidents. It's an homage to accidents, one after the other. The acceleration of events is a little over the top, but I tried to make it as realistic as possible." What about the storytelling, fable? "It's from another dimension," Godard said, "You have to confront vague ideas with clear images." And for me there's a connection between telling a story and death. What it is I'm not sure."

Villeneuve, a 32-year-old father of three, has devoted his first two movies to what he calls "the first life crisis—that particular slice of age between 25 and 30 years old when there's all this pressure to come to terms with your ideals." Both movies were "acts of abandonment," he adds. "If I'd asked myself why I was doing them, I would have been paralyzed."

The mercenary Cinemascope Villeneuve's vision like an artist's model. "She has a really fascinating face," he says, "always changing according to her mood. I had to be careful with the camera angles so she'd look like an entirely different character from one scene to the next." The 30-year-old Cree, who began her career as a pianist, seems no closer to defining herself than he is. "I don't know why I'm doing this either," she says. "I'm a very solitary person. I read Nietzsche and 19th-century novels. But I connected with the character—the very deep feeling of powerlessness."

Acting is a subjective process. And one reason that *Marie-Laure* works so well is that its protagonist is utterly submerged in the movie, physically and emotionally. An instrument of the director and the script, she is the movie.

The same cannot be said of the lead actors in *Seven Feet and Ten Thousand and Nine*. Although both are exceptionally talented, they don't seem at home in their films. *Seven* and *Nine* stars Liane Balaban, who made such a winning first impression as a Cape Breton misfit in *1997's Waterford Girl*. As *Seven* and *Nine*'s title character, the 20-year-old Toronto actor plays a Montreal street kid, a party thief cruising through a world of pushovers and



*Blue* and *Marie-Laure* Turturro (top) a deft counterpoint between memory and desire, memory and death

warms plays Benjamin, a celebrated paleontologist who gets a new lease on life when he learns that a brain disease will kill him in five weeks. Empowered by his deadline, and the threat of imminent senility, Benjamin cuts a swath through a circle of anxious friends, and slips through flashbacks of an orphaned childhood, projected as home-movie hallucinations.

Turturro, a dynamic actor on a long leash, builds his way through this quirky comedy, while the other characters are reduced to foils. And although writer-director Amy Poissonier works a deft counterpoint between memory and desire, memory and death, the drama feels conceptually frozen—like the fossilized fish that serves as its per se motif.

Emerging talents, Poissonier and *Marie-Laure*'s Villeneuve both contributed vignettes to *Genius*, a 1996 ensemble of short films. Curiously, with their second features, both directors are fixated on ancient fish. One chooses a fossil that speaks from a locked past, setting the race for an elegant but bone-dry abstraction that never comes fully to life. The other chooses a cure hauled from the deep, an ancient man who spins a yarn with his dying breath—and pulls us in. ■

havior. And she warns me: "I've been on the streets since I was a little baby," Julie informs us. "How can you rehabilitate someone who's been bad since day one?" But no matter how hard Montreal screenwriter Heather O'Neill tries to spell out her plight—and she tries too hard—Balaban doesn't look like she has ever lived on the streets.

Julie's world includes her bookie dad (Nicholas Campbell), a fatherly pedophile (Raymond Cloutier), a case child psychiatrist (Victor Savaria) and a dream-bought drug addict (Kris Lemche). But the self-conscious dialogue has there all talking like writers, busy exploring themselves while a razor series over the drama. Director John Ulayser has already mined these mean streets before—in *Carrie's Ghost* (1995)—and now it may be time to move on.

Two Thousand and Nine less American character actor John Turturro do something he doesn't get to do much back home: be a star. In the first reel alone, he has more screen time than in most of his other movies combined. Turturro

# Passion and urban grooves

Even during the eight years men she worked alongside her mother cleaning hotel rooms, Nelly Furtado knew that she would grow up to be a musician. Her childhood in a working-class Portuguese-Canadian family in Victoria (her father, Antonio, is a seamstress and landscaper) was steeped in song and dance. Her mother, Maria, sang at Portuguese festivals, and Nelly began doing so as well when she was only 4. Later, as she learned folk dancing and took up the ukulele and just tambone, Nelly was confident she would one day become a recording artist. And now, the 21-year-old soon-to-be-labeled debut CD, *Whoa Nelly!*, is getting the kind of advance buzz most young artists can only dream of: Everyone from *Meany Air* to *Rolling Stone* has handed her its seal of watch. And *Entertainment Weekly* dub her "the rising woman." Christina Aguilera, "but that is telling her short. She is better described as a Portuguese Lacey-Hill—hip-hop meets successful crossover artist."

Whoa Nelly? (DreamWorks) is an accomplished and refreshing debut owing much to Furtado's diverse musical interests: Portuguese fado, Brazilian bossa nova, Pakistani devotional singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, alt-rock Beck and Radiohead, pop artists Mariah Carey and TLC, and lots of hip-hop. And it doesn't hurt that Furtado is a dark beauty with blue eyes and long black hair. Naturally, the artist has high hopes for her debut, but she insists she is more interested in pursuing her own musical vision than in satisfying the market as Aguilera and Britney Spears have done. "Why would you want everyone buying your record because it is the cool thing to do?" she asks. "I'd prefer people to



The singer launching her much-anticipated debut

**Nelly Furtado combines the romance of Portuguese fado with hip-hop electricity**

find out about me in an organic way."

During a recent performance at Toronto's Phoenix Concert Theatre, where she was opening for the Canadian band Jackalard, Furtado was stiff and showing signs of inexperience for the first half of her set. But then she let loose, showcasing her strong, versatile voice that moves easily from baby-girl cooing to sultry to tough stoicism to passionate Portuguese fado. Performing one of her first songs, the teasingly sexy *Torn of the Lights*, she swivelled her tiny hips to a crouch and jumped back up with one hand in the air, pumping the crowd like a confident, seasoned hip-hop per-

former. "When I first came out," Furtado said of the concert the following day, "it was like coming out of the blocks in a truck meet—you try so hard and you are almost overdoing it. But I just chilled a little and eased into it."

Furtado began expanding beyond Portuguese music in high school, when she hung out with electronic DJs and went to dance clubs and raves. In 1998, after a year of creative writing studies at a British Columbia college, Furtado moved to Toronto to attend a demo with Gerald Eaton and Brian West of the Philosopher Kings. She had been writing songs with Eaton, who encouraged her to break away from her underground street scene and develop her sound into something more professional. The demo landed Furtado a slot on the 1998 *Lilith Fair* tour and her DreamWorks recording contract. Nusrat, West and Eaton was in the wings like proud fathers. "I am no longer her mentor," said Eaton after seeing her recent Toronto performance. "I am a huge fan."

Furtado, who accompanies herself on the guitar for some songs and performs with a seven-piece band, plans to instill more hip-hop into her music in the future—going out on DJs on how to produce new music with turntables. But she will never forsake her musical roots. "There are two sides to me," she says. "The urban, street-smart English singer, and then the Portuguese singer. When I sing Portuguese, I kind of turn into another person, very emotional, more like a songstress." Furtado's own combination of talents may bring her to pop success without compromising her artistic vision.

Shonda Dziel

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*Bell, a cool dancer, is who wants to be a ballet dancer*

across a ballet class during a boxing lesson, and before long he has swapped his gloves for white slippers. He tries to hide his passion from his widowed father (Gary Lewis) and his older brother (Jamie Draven), both cool mamas. But is Billy's dance teacher (Julie Walters) gonna hire him for the Royal Ballet School, they have to confront their prejudices.

The story is formulaic, but in his fatherly defense, stage director Stephen Daldry hangs it to his. As the neophyte Nureyev, Bell has got it charming, and as his puny, chain-smoking father, Walters is a treat. Besides, any movie that combines *Saved Private Ryan* with the sound of the Clash deserves to be a hit.

Brian D. Johnson

## Pirouettes, not punches

The British have quite the talent for making plucky little films, like 1997's *The Full Monty*, about working-class lads who cut loose at the risk of losing their jobs. Next in line is Billy Elliot: It's drama, yes, comedy, but it's also about showbiz casting in redemptive spotlight into the industrial gloom—the story of a miner's son who wants to be a ballet dancer.

Preteen Billy (Jamie Bell) stumbles

## Movers and Shakers

"Tango is a passion, a feeling, a way of life," says a dancer in the new NFB documentary *Tango in a Cold City*. And so dances for many of the endomorphs featured in the Moving Pictures Festival of Dance on Film and Video, running in Toronto from Oct. 17 to 22, and then stepping out to cities across the country. With *Tango*, director Alastair

Brown dabbles with the story of how the tango dance from Argentina won a following in Toronto. No less devoted to their way of dancing are the seven and DJs in another documentary, *Dance Through Chemistry*, by American Jon Kato. One of more than 40 films at the festival, it's a charged examination of electronic dance culture—yet another documentary that serves for transcendence through movement.

## A feast of Matisse

In January, 1905, a time when few saw value in art that broke with 19th-century realism, a 35-year-old scotch heiress from Baltimore met avant-garde French artist Henri Matisse and bought one of his drawings. Over the next three decades, Etta Cone, along with her sister Claribel, acquired more than 500 Matisse works—a collection considered the most important in the world. Now, 75 weeks from the Cone Collection of the Baltimore Museum of Art are on view at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, until Jan. 14. Highlights include *Large Reclining Nude* (1935) and *The Yellow Door* (1929), both rump-pump paintings that help explain the Cone—and the world's—fascination with their creator.



*Large Reclining Nude*, 75 weeks



*Dino 2000 just perspective*

## T. rex tower

It's not exactly the CN Tower, but the Dino 2000 in Drumheller, Alta., is already a historic landmark of sorts. The recently unveiled 86-ft., 145,000-lb. replica of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* will be listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* and *Playboy* Believe It or Not as the world's largest dinosaur monument. Visitors may climb a stairway in the interior to reach an observation deck built into the gaping jaws. Costing almost \$1 million, part of which was provided by the federal government's Millennium Partnership Program, the T. rex—constructed of steel, foam and fiberglass—was a year in the making. A sneak preview last week drew more than 1,100 people over four hours, which suggests that this dino will be a towering success.

## Pop Movies

1	Head in the Game (PG-13)	\$2,850,343
2	Big Daddy (TV-14)	\$1,534,100
3	Remember the Titans	\$1,494,021
4	Opposite Sex (TV-14)	\$1,431,127
5	The Matrix (PG-13)	\$1,411,990
6	Almost Famous (TV-14)	\$1,312,311
7	Urban Legends: Final Cut	\$1,010,194
8	Hard 2 (TV-14)	\$912,180
9	Being in the Mood (TV-14)	\$894,318
10	The Waterboy (TV-14)	\$820,104

Top movies in Canada, based on weekly all-theater office receipts during the week they first opened on Oct. 12. (In brackets: number of screens/weeks showing.) Source: Entertainment Weekly Inc.

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Allan Fotheringham

## One innocent in Shanghai

So, you see, we are at the bar off the lobby of the Peace Hotel in Shanghai. At the barstend is the oldest, most seasoned jukebox in existence, playing what is advertised as Disraeli. These guys are so bad they are good.

These guys, sit in raiment, wearing short-sleeved white shirts, are supposedly the remnants of when this decadent city was "the Paris of the Orient"—they allegedly having to practice in secret during the Cultural Revolution—and described by one critic (accurately) as "whorey but amiable."

The bartender, an pirate, looks like Peter Lamm's jaded uncle. His entire attitude is that of someone who has to endure, once again, Sunday dinner over at the mother-in-law's. The pronunciation of this is that this is China's resurrection of Glass Menagerie, and so they play sixth great swing numbers—advertised on the request menu—as *Waiting for Mr. Goodbye*, *When the Saints March*, *My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose*, *Love Is Like a Hot Air Balloon* and the ever-popular *Judy Hearst Let's Get Together*.

Blood California teenage buck-packer walks in, thinking this is actually jazz, but what they are looking for, naturally, is the old epitome of Shanghai, the bad, bad city of between-the-wars that is now fast-tracked with Pepsi signs. Sodom and Gomorrah telling out.

Shanghai, you gotta realize, was once the most notorious city in Asia. In essence, as the only jurisdiction in the world that did not require travel documents for entry, was best described by an English visitor who told of a woman sitting alone in a nightclub, dressed all in green, holding a green cigarette in her lips with a glass of crème de menthe on her table. On other nights, she was seen in red velvet, sipping cherry brandy and smoking a rose-colored fig.

Today? As the nervous boys in Beijing try to morph communism into a market economy—at Moscow clumsily tried also—Shanghai makes New York City look like a sleepy village. In 1990, one-third of the construction cranes in the world were in Shanghai. In October of 2000, as we write, it is down to a mere 25 per cent of the cranes in the universe.

A city of 16.1 million now has more skyscrapers than Manhattan, the Grand Hyatt Hotel popping off at 88 stories. Confident that it will replace Hong Kong as the financial centre of Asia, it is moving quickly to its previous status as the most dynamic—and notorious—port in the world.



It is some distance from its prewar days, when the British, French, German and White Russian communities ruled the social world and the celebrated nightclubs. And erected the now-famous sign in a puff off the Band: "No dogs or Chinese allowed." The sign now is displayed in a museum not far from the Peace Hotel where the ancient samophone plays tangle tunes.

On one tower, a dancing neon Coca-Cola sign stretches 15 stories high in the sky. Along the river by the Bund are huge neon advertisements for the convention of China into the new age: Canon, Sharp, Nikon, Moxell, Epson, TDK, Philips, Panasonic, Hitachi, Carrier, Bosch.

Nanjing Road, the shopping street of the largest city in China, is speckled with the dead-end legacy of McDonald's and Kowloon Fried Chicken. The celebrated Bund is a magnificent eight-lane sweep along the river—an offshoot of the Yangtze. It is reminiscent of the wonderful (now run-down) harbourfront in Havana or Chicago's grand promenade on Lake Michigan. Toronto would weep to see it, and should.

The Yangtze Delta, with Shanghai as its hub, contains 200 million people and more cities with a population exceeding one million than all of North America—in an area half the size of Alberta. That's more than six times little Canada's population.

No wonder 700 businessmen signed up for Mr. Chretien's Tizen Canada expedition in November—now apparently cancelled because of a stupid, unnecessary election.

Ah, the infamous Orient. Two of the favourite discs are New York, New York and MGM. In the meantime, China's 27 airlines take off from the over-airports and 76 trains trundle out daily.

In a week in a city of 16 million, your dastard agent is approached three times by someone asking for money. That is the same rate that is provided in 10 minutes by sleep-deprived, drugged-out teenagers sitting on the sidewalk in a three-block stretch of Boy Street.

In most prestigious hotels, the oncologist is a world-weary gent who can sit at a desk of the wrist supply a theatre ticket, a restaurant reservation, a girl, whatever. At the Peace, my oncologist is perhaps 16, with a dazzling yellow bow tie and a large rose in his lapel, sporting a powdered face, spoked black hair and an evil grin. Perhaps Sodom and Gomorrah is on the way back.

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